



## HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Bill Number: HB 140  
Hearing Date/Time: March 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of  
H.B. 140, Providing Discretion in Record Disposition

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** H.B. 140, which grants the Commission greater discretion on when to destroy records following a 6-year statutory retention requirement. This housekeeping measure helps establish greater uniformity with document retention requirements and allows the Commission to manage records more efficiently.

Haw. Rev. Stat. § 84-17.5 requires financial disclosure statements to be destroyed after six years. With respect to publicly filed statements, it is unclear whether this requirement serves a purpose. Public financial disclosure statements are frequently downloaded or posted on other websites. This information will never be truly destroyed, and it may be misleading to treat these documents as if they could be removed from the internet.

With respect to confidential financial disclosure statements, some discretion on the destruction date will allow the Commission to efficiently remove records as staffing and time allows, rather than being statutory compelled to drop other matters that may be more time sensitive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 140.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris  
Robert D. Harris  
Executive Director and General Counsel

**HB-140**

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:27:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/9/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To esay to Distroy Evidence!!!!