



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Bill Number: HB 140
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
H.B. 140, Providing Discretion in Record Disposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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: 2/1/2023 12:47:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Kwiatkowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB 140. as public trustees, your oath says you will uphold and support the HI Constitution, which gives all political power to the people. This bill is in strong opposition to the will of the people and the oaths you took upon running for and taking your position. oppose this bill.