



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 2, 2023

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator McKelvey and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: SB613 RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE ACCESS THROUGH
REMOTE TESTIMONY.**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB613**, which requires each house of the Legislature to establish by its rules, procedures that enable the Legislature to use remote testimony at legislative committee hearings, enable the public to present oral testimony at legislative committee hearings through remote testimony, and accommodate persons with disabilities though remote testimony. Defines "remote testimony".

Remote testimony allows greater accessibility, benefitting those who cannot attend the hearing in person. Many of our individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities rely on others for their transportation needs, making it difficult, if not impossible, to attend a hearing with a day or two notice. To accommodate person's with disabilities to provide remote testimony allows for more members of the community to participate in and benefit the Hawai'i legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB613.**

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Thursday, February 2, 2023, 3:15 pm Hearing, State Capitol Room 225 &
Videoconference

SB 613,
Relating to Legislative Access through Remote Testimony

TESTIMONY
Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 613. You did good. We truly appreciate it. Please make it permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
SB 613 Relating to Legislative Access Through Remote Testimony**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the WAM committee:

On behalf of the Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like to offer our comments in support of **SB 613** which would make permanent the procedures and infrastructure to allow the public to present remote testimony at legislative hearings.

Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits. Our mission is to unite and strengthen the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai`i. Our member organizations provide essential services to every community in the state.

As a statewide organization, HANO believes it is important to engage nonprofit organizations and their communities on all islands throughout the state. Legislative modernizations like remote live testimony via videoconferencing will make the legislative process more accessible to those who live and work on the neighbor islands, and/or who are homebound, and cannot come to the State Capitol in person. We support this effort to improve statewide public participation in our policymaking process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Lisa Maruyama
President and CEO

SB-613

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:10:48 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/2/2023 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT.

We have learned through the past years the importance of on line access to the legislature. The policies and procedures should be uniform and meet not only the "legislators" parameters but include input from the public especially those in the deaf, blind and other access-challenged communities.

SB-613

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:38:21 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/2/2023 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PL Fritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure which will allow greater participation by the public and implement procedures that allow individuals with disabilities to participate in legislative process.

SB-613

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:04:43 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/2/2023 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As bad as it was, the pandemic had some beneficial results, among them, a huge increase in civic participation by allowing remote testimony. It has been very popular. This ability must be enshrined in law. I was among those who participated. Please move this bill forward.

SB-613

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:38:11 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/2/2023 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members!

I very strongly support SB 613 to require both houses of our legislature to allow and support remote testimony at their hearings. This will empower more residents to become citizens involved in our local democracy and will continue to facilitate easy access to giving testimony for people like myself who have learned how to do so, appreciate it, and made good use of the option during these years of pandemic. Don't take this access away!

This is not just for the deaf and blind, not even just for those on islands other than O'ahu. This supports active engagement by the residents and voters all over our state. Driving to and parking at the State Capitol is not convenient or even affordable to many citizens, including kūpuna on limited budgets like myself. (Remember: We vote in large numbers!)

This bill is not only pro-democracy; it is also good environmentally, because it will keep some cars off the road (and lessen our terrible traffic.) It helps support our state's environmental goals.

For all these reasons, please kokua and pass this bill!

Mahalo nui,

Ingrid Peterson