

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3661**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 05 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1599
H.D. 1
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1599, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SUNSHINE LAW,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require public meeting notices to inform members of the public how to provide remote oral testimony in a manner that allows the testifier, upon request, to be visible to board members and other meeting participants; and
- (2) Recognize a board's authority to remove and block individuals who disrupt meetings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, Disability and Communication Access Board, Public First Law Center, and ACLU of Hawai'i.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Information Practices.

Your Committee finds that existing law permits boards to refuse to permit individuals to testify by videoconference without



giving up certain rights, such as disclosing their identity or registering in advance of a meeting. Your Committee further finds that this process creates a tiered system that denies remote testifiers the opportunity to be visible in front of board members while testifying. This measure will ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to participate by both audio and video means at remote meetings subject to the Sunshine Law.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of January 1, 2025.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1599, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1599, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,




KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
 Committee on Judiciary
 JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1599 HD1 SD1	Committee Referral: GVO, JDC	Date: 04/02/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	4	—	—	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes