



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: SB 2216 SD1
Hearing Date/Time: March 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of SB 2216 SD1, Relating to the State Ethics Commission

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** SB 2216 SD1, which clarifies and modernizes the advice and investigative process for the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission.

The ethical landscape of public service is ever-evolving, and our state's ethics framework must adapt to those changes. A key component of a proactive ethical framework is the ability to provide timely advice. This measure addresses the need for clarity in the advice-seeking process, providing public officials with a secure mechanism to request advice, confidentially, and receive a written summary of any advice provided. It also provides the Commission with the means to provide general advisory opinions as to matters of general interest.

This measure also makes important house-keeping amendments to the investigative process. While many of these matters have been resolved over the years, modernizing the investigative process in statute helps provide clarity and reduce the potential for misreading the process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2216 SD1.

Very truly yours,

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