



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: SB 2219 Proposed SD1
Hearing Date/Time: February 16, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of SB 2219 Proposed SD1, Relating to Lobbying, **WITH A PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

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

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) **supports** the proposed SD1 of SB 2219, which makes pivotal updates to Hawaii’s lobbyist law. This bill expands the definition of lobbying to include procurement matters outside of those communications already allowed for under Haw. Rev. Stat. chapters 103D or 103F. This proposal is informed by other jurisdictions and is principally focused on “pre-procurement” communications where someone is actively communicating with high-level government officials to induce or shape the procurement process. This expansion increases transparency and oversight over state procurements, which directly reduces the potential for corruption, waste, and fraud.

This bill also creates two new presumptions to simplify regulatory oversight. First, this measure creates a new standard where if a person is paid to submit testimony ten or more times during a calendar year, they trigger the definition of a lobbyist. This establishes an easy-to-administer, bright-line standard that can be used by both lobbyists and the Commission to determine when registration is necessary.

Second, this measure also presumes that a lobbyist submitting testimony relevant to an employer is doing so on behalf of an employer, versus submitting that testimony in an unemployed or personal capacity. This addresses situations where an employee claims they are not paid to lobby but are transparently advocating in their employer’s interests. To this end, the Commission proposes an amendment to address concerns it has heard from stakeholders. Page 2, lines 1-6 should be amended to say:

Any individual with a substantial ownership interest in or a paid employee, officer, or director of an organization, who actively participates in lobbying activities that directly benefit that organization, shall be presumed to be receiving compensation from the organization for their lobbying efforts.

This removes some of the ambiguity in the language originally proposed in SD1.

This measure reflects a thoughtful and iterative approach to expanding Hawaii's lobbying law that ensures greater transparency, accountability, and fair competition in government contracts. This proposal strengthens the regulatory framework, preventing undue influence and promoting a level playing field that benefits both taxpayers and businesses alike.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2219 SD1.

Very truly yours,

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

Feb. 16, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair

From: Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RE: SB2219 Proposed SD1 — RELATING TO LOBBYING

Comments only

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on the portion of the [proposed SD1](#) for [SB2219](#) that would amend the current definition of lobbyist to include an individual who, “for pay or other consideration, on behalf of another person ... submits testimony ten or more times during any calendar year.”

We applaud the bill’s aim of cleaning up government and stopping corruption, but we are concerned that the current wording of this provision might unintentionally sweep civically active citizens into the lobbying category.

Because the term “consideration” can be interpreted as any benefit — financial or otherwise — and the term “person” includes organizations and businesses, it could be broadly applied to people who would not generally be considered lobbyists.

For example, this phrasing could arguably apply to a business owner testifying about the impact of proposed tax increases on his business, a translator submitting comments for a marginalized group, or the head of a parents organization testifying about changes to schools.

Under the current law, the time commitment involved in the lobbyist definition is five hours in one reporting period or 10 hours in a calendar year. This is a relatively small amount of time, but because it is focused on activities that are defined by communications with specific public officials, it is clearly intended to exclude those who are simply deeply involved in a specific issue. However, by expanding the law to make a lobbyist out of a mere 10 testimonies, the bill significantly expands the definition of lobbying.

Consider that a single bill in the state Legislature may occasion six separate opportunities for testimony. If there is a companion bill, an individual may exceed the 10-testimonies limit without ever speaking on more than one proposal.

Broadening the definition of lobbyist in this way could discourage citizen participation in the legislative process.

It also could increase the administrative burden on the departments that oversee lobbyist registration and run lobbyist training.

The time-based measures focused on communications in the current law make a simpler distinction between professional lobbyists and active citizens. However, if the Committee wishes to address the issue of lobbyists who evade registration requirements but are highly active in submitting testimony, we suggest a substantial increase in the testimony count.

Alternatively, the Committee could adjust the language to reflect a testimony threshold based on the number of different proposals — such as bills or resolutions — testified on.

Otherwise, given that testimony is a direct expression of free speech in its purest form, using testimony limits to define lobbying appears unnecessary and undemocratic.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

TESTIMONY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SB2219 RELATED TO LOBBYING
Friday, February 16, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 016 via Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Mrs. Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawai'i Federation of Republican Women

I am concerned about the proposed amendment to Section 97-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes: to amend the current definition of lobbyist to include an individual who, "for pay or other consideration, on behalf of another person ... submits testimony ten or more times during any calendar year."

Furthermore, changing the definition of "lobbyist" to mean any individual who engages in lobbying in excess of five hours in any month; engages in excess of ten hours during any calendar year; and submits testimony ten or more times during any calendar year, is a direct violation of our first amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution.

May I respectfully remind you that The First Amendment provides that Congress makes no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

Please vote NO on SB2219.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 3:43:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** this Bill and I urge you to vote **NO** on this Bill.

Defining a lobbyist as anyone who "For pay or **other consideration**, on behalf of another person ... **Submits testimony ten or more times during any calendar year**" may cause civically active constituents to be considered as lobbyists. This is nonsensical and is not conducive to the representative form of democracy that our government operates upon. It is our civic duty to inform our representatives in government how to represent their constituents, and providing testimony is one such way to do that. Limiting or preventing constituents from providing testimony is a direct violation of the principles of how our government is supposed to work. Moreover, giving testimony is a form of free speech and this Bill, as currently written, would violate our First Amendment rights.

Refer to Grassroot Institute testimony on this issue:

<https://www.grassrootinstitute.org/2024/01/sb2219-dont-define-civically-active-citizens-as-lobbyists/>

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:58:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha legislators, this bill SB2219 is of big concern for me, especially coming from the ethics committee, as it's wrong to label a private citizen giving testimony 10 or more times a Lobbyists, when that's not what they are and they're a concern resident that should be able to speak on every bill if they choose to. It seems little by little we're turning into a dictatorship government and there's no such thing as democracy anymore. I'm in full opposition and I hope those that put together this bill, see how it's wrong and shouldn't be passed. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:43:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Who comes up with these ridiculous bills!?! Why wouldn't you want the everyday people to have a voice on everything...it's our duty and we don't need labels. This impacts our freedom of speech.

you guys are all donkies. No wonder Hawaii is a crap hole.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:00:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manulani Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:05:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose Bill SB2219

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:05:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Carreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. There will never be another bill that will prove more strongly that Hawaii politicians don't care about what their constituents think than if this bill passes. We can have an opinion but only so much??? If Hawaii politicians can't take the heat of the people testifying about the proposed bills then they are not worthy of the seat. Respectfully, grow a back bone.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:12:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharee Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting testimony to any amount of bills makes me a concerned citizen/viter not a lobbyist. Do your job in adherence to the constitution. I have a right to submit testimony to any or all bills that I want.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:36:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2219.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:41:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Moylan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB2219.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:41:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strong oppose this bill that will inhibit my right to freedom of speech. How is this ethical? Who is to say how many times and what bills I am allowed to be in opposition of. Will I be a lobbyist if I submit over 10 support testimonies? So, I strings oppose SB2219 as I see it was a violation of my rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:52:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dawn lincoln	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose that the State intends to take away my 1st amendment right.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:52:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2219.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:01:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:08:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Gusich-Batara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2219 in which contains language that will label concerned citizens, like myself as lobbyists if our number of testimonies within a calendar year exceeds 10. This is infringing upon our right to free speech. I am a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and widow who is retired and now have time to pay attention to the laws being passed by our legislature. I am very concerned with the direction our state is heading appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion. I am no lobbyist, I have no agenda. So far this year I have already submitted testimony for over 10 bills, and the legislative year has just begun. I thought as our representatives, you would want to hear from us, we the people, to make sure you are representing the best interests of the people. Do our opinions even matter? Please do not suppress or silence our voices. Vote no on SB2219.

Thank you

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:09:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill is ridiculous! It takes away and/or limits my right to voice my opinion and participate in the legislative process. please vote NO

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:10:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this legislation.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:12:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:12:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:45:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to oppose bill 2219 as it is unconstitutional as it violates my freedom of speech. Thank you

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:48:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Palpallatoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL! It is our duty as citizens to make our voices heard on legislation that will impact our lives and communities. We represent ourselves!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:55:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel De Costa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How is this not a violation of our constitutional rights? Whoever writes unconstitutional bills should be removed from office and never be allowed to run for office ever!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:55:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There should be no limit on a citizens right to express their opinion on bills. I strongly oppose this bill. We are not lobbyists. We are concerned citizens voicing our concerns.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:59:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dirck Sielken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill in it's entirety.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:10:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lekeli Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill SB2219 that limits individuals' testimony to only 10 times per calendar year. As a concerned citizen and active participant in our democratic process, I believe this limitation would severely restrict the ability of constituents like myself to voice our opinions on critical matters that affect our communities.

Limiting citizens' testimony to such a small number of occasions per year undermines the principles of open dialogue, transparency, and public participation in governance. It effectively silences diverse voices and perspectives that are essential for informed decision-making.

Furthermore, imposing arbitrary restrictions on the number of times individuals can provide testimony disproportionately affects marginalized communities and grassroots organizations that rely on public hearings to advocate for their rights and interests. This limitation would create an unfair advantage for well-funded special interest groups while disenfranchising ordinary citizens.

I urge you to reconsider including this provision in [Bill Name] and instead prioritize measures that promote inclusive and accessible public engagement. Our democracy thrives when all voices are heard, and I implore you to uphold this fundamental principle by opposing any efforts to limit citizen participation.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I look forward to your support in ensuring that the voices of all constituents are valued and respected in the legislative process.

Aloha,

Lekeli Watanabe

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:19:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE the attempt to redefine "lobbying" and "lobbyist," as the attempted redefinition of these words are in conflict with each other. On the one hand, a "lobbyist" as defined must "receive compensation" for their lobbying, but you are attempting to redefine "lobbying" to include "communicating directly...with any official in the legislative or executive branch" or "the governor, the lieutenant governor, legislators, or the director, deputy director, or member of the governing board of an administrative agency" with no mention of receiving compensation. Are you all getting too many phonecalls and emails from YOUR CONSTITUENTS? Is it annoying you that constituents are being informed about the games you all have been playing and are now exercising their rights to speak up??? Is that what this is about?! So now you are trying to call people DOING THEIR CIVIC DUTY FOR NO COMPENSATION WHATSOEVER "lobbying"? Nice try, but it looks like you already know that won't stand up in court. Deal with the fact that your actions and adamant REFUSAL TO LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS are causing the public to speak up to you! Start LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE. And I also OPPOSE your blatant favoritism towards "nonprofits" who have been actually lobbying elected officials to continue to waste money on well-connected middlemen who use grant writing to secure their annual salaries, instead of invest that money into LONGTERM SOLUTIONS TO FUNDAMENTALLY END SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS LIKE POVERTY, VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS.

And for the record, I have NEVER in my life received compensation, nor would I EVER take compensation, to submit testimony, call or email elected officials regarding issues that I am concerned about. I have never been, nor will I ever be, a "lobbyist."

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:26:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in **STRONG** opposition to the current wording of the bill, that would label those who would testify 10 or more times as a lobbyist. This would falsely label those who are active in this state's politics and is as an attack on free speech thinly veiled as countering corruption in what has recently been called one of the most corrupt states in the union.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:37:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the characterization of submitting testimony more than 10 times a year as "lobbying." Citizens are supposed to be engaged in government. Without encouraging citizens to make their voices heard, how will our elected representatives accurately represent us?

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:41:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Puahala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB 2219. A Bill like this should not be passed.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:46:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aoha,

I think this bill is ridiculous and just trying to silence any opposition! Please do the work for the PEOPLE of Hawaii. We need all of you to do the right thing and your job. Please!

Thank you.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:47:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Vailisale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Rosemarie Vailisale oppose of this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:57:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara C Griffiths	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How dare the writers and proponents of this bill equate concerned citizens with a constitutional right to participate in the democratic process with paid special interest groups! Pilau!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:22:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is simply ridiculous to limit freedom of speech. An individual citizen, that is not paid, should be allowed to testify as many times as they like.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:29:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Russo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because we as the people of Hawai'i have a right to speak and you can't take that away from us. The fact that we want our voices heard because you do work for us, not the other way around; the fact that you are calling us lobbyists for speaking our mind is just ridiculous. What happened to serving the people? Time to vote what is right for the people of Hawai'i EA !

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:30:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Kashiwai	Testifying for Red Letter Industries	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:14:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! This is an egregious violation of our Constitutional rights! This is a shocking piece of legislation! Oppose!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 3:59:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Parmenter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB2219

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:38:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!!

As an individual citizen, it is my right to give written or in person testimony to any and all legislative bills during a session as I feel warrants. I receive zero compensation for the time it takes me to submit these testimonies.

This bill will take away my individual right of freedom of speech. It attempts to limit my testimonies to 10 or less. This session has over 2,000 new bills! This bill would limit me to testify on only 10 those or else be considered a lobbyist. That's insane! I am a concerned citizen. I do not receive any compensation for taking the time to voice or submit my written testimonies. How would our legislature determine who or how anyone is paid to submit testimonies?

Why must I submit testimony?? Because of bills such as this. Shame on our "elected" officials for submitting and passing such a bill.

In addition, there is a bill this session that attempts to change our legislative sessions to year long instead of months. Again, year long submittal of bills but if a citizen attempts to give testimony more than 10 times they would be considered a lobbyist.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:38:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. A lobbyist is someone who is paid. I have a right as We the People to have my voice heard about issues where I live especially if I'm not being paid. This Bill is beyond wrong

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:00:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying on multiple bills during a session should not classify an ordinary person as a lobbyist.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:03:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:59:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Abbott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2219. Making everyone who submits more than ten testimonies per session into a lobbyist will only serve to prevent citizens from making their voices heard, a violation of their first amendment rights. There is no need for this provision. I urge the committee to vote no.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:35:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealohi Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people should have a say as our constitutional right as to what laws are being put forth before us. Just cause you don't like people rallying against these absurd laws you go and make one to shut the people up. Do better!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:42:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradd Haitzuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. This bill seems like an attempt to suppress free speech and an attempt to hamper a free and fair process.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:42:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimi Brede	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people need to speak up. It's wrong to limit us

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:45:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailanna Lagmay-josiah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, my name is ailanna Lagmay-josiah

As a individual citizen, I feel that this bill goes against every citizens first amendment right. we the people should be able to testify to as many bills as we oppose or support. I oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:57:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jared nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:03:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

SB2219 restricts the rights of the ordinary Hawaii citizen from participating in the legislative process by forcing them to be defined as lobbyists. Additionally, SB2219 exempts legislators and state employees from the lobbying HRS.

SB2219 should be tabled.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Chester Lum

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:05:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Avelin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2219! This is ANOTHER disgusting infringement on our rights! This is another bill that supports communism. Absolutely disgusting!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:37:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Free speech cannot be taken from us like this.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:42:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Nicely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2219

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:47:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin DeGuzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose sb2219, this is my God given right to oppose any and every bill that I feel is going to be a detriment to our state. The fact that this is even an option on the table to limit the amount of testimony someone can send in, be it for or against whatever the issue is shows that you the government really want to hush the people that go against you and your government agenda. There is no care for the people of hawaii in whole from you the government.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:14:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gitte Gonzalez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Citizens contributing by giving input and their own testimony on bills should be encouraged not have them labeled as lobbyists

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:23:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rona Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2219!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:29:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!!!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:39:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I rebuke all evil in Jesus' amen!! Stop messing with GOD because vengeance is HIS!!

Concerned citizen

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:25:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as written. We, the People, should not be restricted nor should we be considered "lobbyists" if we submit 10 or more testimonies per year. Lobbyists are defined as professional advocates who work to influence political decisions on behalf of individuals and organizations. They conduct activities aimed at influencing or swaying public officials and especially members of a legislative body on legislation. Lobbyists are prohibited from paying politicians to secure their vote on these matters. We already have compensation stipulations on lobbyists here in Hawaii, and individuals who testify on their own behalf without compensation should not be included as a lobbyist. There are other things that the legislation needs to worry about and this is a ridiculous waste of time.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:34:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maren Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose SB2219. Do not take my voice as a citizen. It is my God given right to speak on whatever I choose. Remember, the Senate works for the people and should not entertain a bill that takes those rights away.

Respectfully,

Maren Cantrell

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:42:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles Freed	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in opposition to SB2219 as this bill unconstitutionally would label an individual, private citizen as a lobbyist after submitting testimony 10 or more times in a year. It is the job of our legislators to listen to their constituents and propose bills that benefit them and make their lives easier, not to limit their God given rights that have been enshrined in our constitution. The First Amendment exists in order to insure that every voice is heard, regardless of whether that voice is being nice or is in opposition of what a congressperson wants. As someone in our state legislature your main concern should be to make the lives of your constituency easier, with less taxes and more freedoms and easier access to the upward mobility that people desire in life.

Thank you, and please don't run for office ever again.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:51:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Star Fernandez Beechick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm not a not a lobbyist! I will testify as much as I want because it's called free speech. My testimonies are NOT to be numbered speeches to then subsequently making me a lobbyist.

I have protected speech according to the First Amendment of the US Constitution and in Article One Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

You serve us. We hired you. You work for us. You'll stay hired when you follow the US and State Constitution.

This bill is in violation of the State and US Constution.

Cordially, Star Fernandez Beechick

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 3:10:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Pearl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill is infringing upon our 1st Amendment rights to exercise freedom of speech. It is our civic duty to be involved with the legislative system and submit as many testimonies as we choose in relation to various bills. Without this ability you're heading toward a communist state that restricts the rights of the citizens. This is a direct threat against our Constitutional Republic and the ability to give as much or as frequent testimony is meant to give the citizens a voice. This bill is a slippery slope to communism.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 3:21:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Seems like this is trying to discourage American citizens from voicing their opinions to their "public servants and elected officials". If they are not paid lobbyists but have grown tired of the control being pushed on them and the corruption, Americans are voicing their wishes in the manner they are supposed to, this is NOT illegal.....Of, For & By the People.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:01:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The right to petition the government for a redress grievances is protected and guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution under the first amendment. So important is this right that it was also guaranteed in the Hawaii State Constitution, under Article 1, section 4. This right, to voice my opinion, concerns, supports or oppositions to any and all things is protected speech. As an American and a citizen of a **Republic** (we are not a Democracy - those words are not interchangeable), I have the right to freedom of speech and in no way, does this protected right need the following: registering, permitting, licensing or any other infringement that you can think up. No state statute can override the law of the land, i.e. the U.S Constitution and any statutes that do can be ignored with impunity. Every statute must be held up to these documents as a measure of what is allowed and what is not, according to both compacts you swore an oath to protect.

SB2219 violates the U.S. Constitution, the Hawaii State Constitution, the Bill of Rights and goes against our founding principles found in the Declaration of Independence. SB2219 proposes that my right to petition the government for a redress grievances can be limited in number and that my freedom of speech needs to be registered, that these protected rights can somehow be made into a privilege.

The People did not give the authority to its public servants to control the people's behavior, nor to grant and resend privileges. On the contrary, the People created the constitutions (all 51) as a guarantee of granting limit powers to those in public service and solutions to fix any out of control behavior of their public servants.

You know that long train of abuses that is listed in the Declaration of Independence (please tell me you are familiar), that same train of abuses is becoming very evidently familiar in the bombardment of very bad, unconstitutional bills this legislative session. It's obvious what the legislators are attempting to serve up to the Hawaiian people. STOP IT!

The last thing, SB2219 is an attempt to **silence** *We the People*, who oppose the many proposed, unconstitutional statutes, designed to override our constitutionally protected rights given to us by God.

I oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:19:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2219.

Consistent with many bills of the current legislature, the purpose of this bill is to infringe upon the rights of the citizenry of Hawai‘i by attempting to diminish, if not outright override, the rights covered under the 1st amendment of the Constitutions of the State of Hawai‘i and the United States of America. It is apparent that those in control of our governmental systems are in fear of losing the power they thought absolute, with more of our people rising up to challenge the policies they force upon the citizens of our home that destroy our ability to live freely and happily. This bill, being the latest examples of such infractions and infringements, seeks to facilitate the ability for those in power to weaponize labels and prevent their political or ideological opponents from exercising natural rights that should be protected by our governments.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:20:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Ajolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!! Unconstitutional per 1st amendment

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:04:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Thompson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As long as this bill does not infringe on the freedom of speech for individual citizens submitting public comment/testimony, this is a good idea. There has been a huge problem with vendors to the USG and state lobbying for financial gain which edges out small businesses. There should be language added that includes Government employees in submitting public comment, which should not be allowed since they are being paid and represent the state.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:39:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB 2219

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:41:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene Lamkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why do I need to register as a lobbyist to exercise my first amendment right? This is an intimidation tactic to silence free speech. Strongly object to this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:50:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE Bill SB2219

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:24:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Veal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill. SB2219 defines a lobbyist as someone who submits 10 or more testimonies per legislative session. We the People are born with rights that are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and State Constitution to petition the Government for a redress of grievances and to speak freely. We do not need to register ourselves as lobbyist in order to do so. Nor do we give up rights and allow them to be called privileges.

The vague language of “other consideration” in the bill text is a red flag.

This bill impacts our freedom of speech guaranteed in 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 section 4 of Hawaii State Constitution

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:45:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Ashton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I should be able to submit testimony as freely as I'd like.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:53:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Valdez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this SB2219. As a US citizen and tax payor, I oppose this bill as I should not have any limits as to how many times I can do testimonies. It is my given right via 1 Amendment to have my freedom of speech. By you doing this, you are taking my right away. Thank you

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:01:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANTHONY M GAIRNESE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is another attempt to silence opposing viewpoints, this bill is a direct attack on the 1st admendment right of individuals to voice their opposition to tyrannical legislation. Hard No.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:07:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This already is a violation of freedom of speech if this bill is passed. We get categorized as a lobbyist with what 'special interest'? You work for the people, the people do not work for you. None of us are paid and none will get paid. We know everyone in the legislature is a lobbyist. We stand for the PEOPLE.

TO: Members of the Committees on Judiciary

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA, CFE
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 16, 2024

SUBJECT: SB2219 and Proposed SD1, Related to Lobbying - **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony on SB2219 and the proposed SD1, which revise the definition of lobbying to include submission of 10 testimonies or more in a year as well as make other changes.

As a licensed professional who submits dozens of testimonies annually to the state legislature as well as many more in other public meetings, I was initially concerned that the revision of the definition of lobbying to include submission of 10 annual testimonies would mean that I would be considered a lobbyist. I have been told, however, that because most of the items I testify on, e.g., taxes and other business regulations, include a broad class that I would not be included in the new definition.

When modifying the definition of lobbying and/or lobbyist in this manner, please consider whether or how it may impact people who regularly submit testimonies but are not paid for doing so.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:19:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Cimmittee Members,

I am opposed to SB2219 because it places a limit on free speach in Hawaii. Defining a lobbyist as a person who may submit a specific amount of testimony in any one legislative session is the equivalant to a denial of free speach. This is unconstitutional. Defer this Senate bill.

Mark White

Waipahu, Hawaii

808 753-5323

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 5:36:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlo Lomuscio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern

We the People are born with rights that are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and State Constitution to petition the Government for a redress of grievances and to speak freely. We do not need to register ourselves as lobbyist in order to do so. Nor do we give up rights and allow them to be called privileges.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:07:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb 2219

government shall not shut down nor control our right to free speech. This violates our first amendment.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:16:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb 2219

our right to free speech is in the first amendment.

government shall not infringe our right.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:19:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too big too much room for fraud stop trying to change things around to manipulate our voays. It's pretty obvious what you guys are doing. All voting should be done in person with your state issued ID. No electronic ID should ever be allowed. Everything should be in person always, guarantee significantly less room for fraud.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:20:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2219 is unconstitutional on its face. It solves no problem that the **people** have. Maybe it's too much of a bother for elected officials to listen to the voters, who are the people who pay your salary. I oppose this bill because it violates my God-given constitutional right to petition the government, at any level, for redress. This idiotic bill has no place in a free society where all voices, including the voices of reason and not just the voices of government, must be heard. Vote NO on SB2219 and stop wasting the taxpayers' money on finding ways to violate our constitutional rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:21:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2219

this violates our first amendment.

we have the right to freedom of speech

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:33:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac blanchard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. We have protected rights and should be able to exercise our freedom of speech. This is wroding our constitutional rights.

Mahalo,

Isaac Blanchard

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:40:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadine L Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because it may end up limiting the amount of times a citizen may testify.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:47:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Feleciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! Limiting or preventing constituents from freely providing testimony is a direct violation of our First Amendment rights. To consider any individual who submits testimony ten or more times during any calendar year a lobbyist is absurd! That is our right and should/will not be taken away.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:52:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deirdre Madrid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a direct hindrance on our first amendment rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:54:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED!!!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:00:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Under the US constitution we the people are born with the right to petition the Government for redress of grevences and to speak freely. This bill would unconstitutional.

Strongly oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:01:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Caiazzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jessica “Priya” and I strongly oppose SB2219 as aimed to redefine what constitutes a lobbyist, including individuals who testify at the legislature more than ten times within a six-month period. This feels like a personal attack on we the people and fulling our civic duty as citizens in the legislative process. I am one of those people who has already testified 10+ times. I receive no funding and no I’m not a lobbyist. Just a very concerned citizen who wants to be active in all things that are critical for the better condition of Hawai’i.

This bill could discourage citizen participation in the legislative process by imposing burdensome requirements and potentially chilling free speech. It could also disproportionately affect grassroots organizations and individuals who advocate for various causes without financial incentive. Overall, opponents believed that this provision could restrict democratic participation and hinder the exchange of diverse viewpoints in the legislative process. Which deems it unconstitutional.

In addition to the concerns about redefining lobbyists and potentially discouraging citizen participation, there were other criticisms of SB2219:

1. **Potential for Exclusion:** Critics argued that the bill could exclude voices from marginalized communities who may not have the resources or ability to comply with the new regulations, further limiting diversity of perspectives in the legislative process.
2. **Chilling Effect on Advocacy:**The fear of being labeled as a lobbyist could deter individuals and organizations from engaging in advocacy efforts, even if they are acting in the public interest. This could stifle the ability of communities to raise awareness about important issues and push for legislative action.
3. **Unintended Consequences:** The broad language of the bill could have unintended consequences, potentially encompassing individuals and organizations who engage in legitimate advocacy activities that are essential for a functioning democracy.
4. **Complexity and Confusion:** The new regulations introduced by SB2219 could add complexity and confusion to the legislative process, making it harder for both lawmakers and citizens to navigate and understand their rights and obligations.

Overall, SB2219 raises concerns about its potential to undermine democratic principles, limit free speech, and hinder advocacy efforts aimed at addressing important societal issues. This is why I ask to oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Jessica "Priya" Caiazzo

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:07:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deidra Larissa Henson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people are born with rights that are guaranteed by the Consitution and State Consitution to petition for any grievances and speak freely. We should not have to register ourselves as lobbyist nor have them called "privileges" as they are RIGHTS. This impacts our born freedoms guaranteed in the 1st amendment of the Constitution and Article 1 of the state Constitution.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:20:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Dallin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Individuals should NOT be considered lobbyists if they submit testimony "for other considerations." It is a violation of First Amendment rights, and I oppose this bill. Citizens should not be penalized for submitting testimony more than 10 times -- there should be no limit on how much or often citizens can voice concerns and opinions. Folks should be encouraged to participate MORE, not LESS, in a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Mahalo.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:39:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2219 as written.

Please remove the section, "for pay or other consideration, on behalf of another person ... submits testimony ten or more times during any calendar year".

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:42:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill was forwarded to our Hawai'i Congressman, Ed Case. It is illegal. Abuse Of Power and denying our Freedom of Speech . Hawai'i , is a state in the United States not some third world country , without a Constitution , an active ACLU or even Supreme Court of the United States. I, wish, to continue, filing testimonies for ANY abusive or unconstitutional Hawaii Legislative Actions. This bill needs to be deleted .

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:50:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana Maumausolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill and so should you. The vague and subjective wording of this proposed Senate Bill may consider ME to be a lobbyist. This Bill defines lobbyist as "any individual who ... for pay or any other consideration", on behalf of another person ... submits testimony ten or more times durinf any calendar year." This Bill threatens to limit and prevent We the People from freely providing testimony and is a direct violation of our First Amendment rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:53:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Looks like another attempt to shut down freedom of speech.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:06:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:10:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose, limiting or preventing constituents from freely providing testimony is a direct violation of our 1st amendment rights

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:16:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! How can any bill limit the people's voice by how many times they submit on different bills proposed! This is the most heinous idea I have ever heard!!!

We the people are to be heard!!

You work for us!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:23:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:29:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Watson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose SB 2219. From my perspective, it can be interpreted as a discouragement for the average resident to participate in testifying in support or opposition of a bill. It can appear to be an attempt by select politicians to redefine, control and limit the legal rights of citizens and community members to shape the very laws and policies we the people have to ultimately live by. Redefining the term "lobbyist" seems to be a task well beyond the capabilities of a Hawaii State Senate committee.

Taken further, perhaps we should allow locally elected officials to determine who is allowed or prevented from voting for each other's opponents, via the control of yet another publicly insulated senate "committee".

It is hard enough for the average citizen to filter through, comprehend, and track the progression of the myriad of bills proposed during any legislative session. This SB2219 promotes further discouragement in civic engagement. I would encourage our elected officials to redirect more time, money and energy towards educating the community on how to successfully and ethically engage in the legislative process.

Mahalo,

Patrick Watson

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:33:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Perkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the People are born with rights that are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and State Constitution to petition the Government for a redress of grievances and to speak freely. We do not need to register ourselves as lobbyist in order to do so. Nor do we give up rights and allow them to be called privileges.

The vague language of “other consideration” in the bill text is a red flag.

This bill impacts our freedom of speech guaranteed in 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 section 4 of Hawaii State Constitution

I strongly encourage each of you to oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:45:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Papapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill SB2219. This bill will silence and limit the peoples voice. Politicians propose many bills that's not in the best interest of the majority! Testimonials help the people by leveling the playing field. Remember, you're public servant! Listening to the people is your job!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:49:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB2219. It's absurd to try and violate my rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:06:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent r Golio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I consider it beyond the pale that ANY sitting member of the Hawaii legislature would consider it a worthy and noble task to infringe on the 1st amendment rights of any citizen of their state over the express views and laws put forth by our founding fathers. It appears that our gov't feels that the LESS we participate in the lawmaking process, the better. I'm certain our elected politicians would prefer to apply the mushroom farm analogy to us, but personally, since we hired you I would rather see EVERYTHING you all are doing because none of us trust you one bit. You've done nothing to earn our trust, and now you would like us to shut up. Time is up on you people pulling that on us. Living in the dark while you feed us crap is not going to fly anymore. We're not mushrooms, but you people are definitely full of it. We will not be silent, and you will not tell us when we can offer input to the idiots we have working for us.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:15:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Are you out of your mind by proposing such a broad sweeping bill!!!

As a tax payer and citizen it is my civic duty which I don't get paid for to speak up and hold accountable anyone in public office. It is also a right to speak and protest if necessary especially if there is something like this that doesn't make sense.

This is an outright violation of my 1st Amendment right to free speech. Are you trying to turn us into a socialist state? This is totally insane.

Please strike the unconstitutional and therefore unlawful bill down. It clearly represents either an act of ignorance or an outright defiance of the constitution.

As a public servant you have taken an oath of office so in addition to that if you support this bill it is a violation of your oath of office.

Please do what is right and shred this bill which should not have been submitted in the first place.

mahalo

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:41:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SUSAN MORRIS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill defines a lobbyist as someone who submits 10 or more testimonies per legislative session.

Our Constitution guaranteed us as a Citizen the right to petition the Government to speak freely. We should NOT! have to to register as a Lobbyist to do so.

It is our right! Not a privilage! I am not willing to give that up!!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:57:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill it take away my constitutional right . I should be able to give written testimony as many times as I want . My father , brother , nephew and niece served in the military for me to have the freedom to support or oppose every Senate bill . It is my right and you should not take away my God given rights

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 11:10:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Any legislator that votes for this bill is violating their oath to the constitution and the people's right to free speech. Legislators are public servants and should be hearing from the public what the people who elected them think. This bill would silence the voices of the people to hold their public servants accountable.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 11:46:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tish Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 2219 states that if you submit testimony ten times or more during any calendar year, you're considered a lobbyist?

By limiting residents, constituents from freely providing testimony is a direct violation of our First Amendment rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 12:00:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael G. Subee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

Depending on the bills brought before the legislature, I may be inclined to submit testimony on a variety of bills. I don't understand, as a property owning, tax paying resident of Hawaii, I would be considered a lobbyist if I submit testimony either for or against any bill. Isn't that my consitutional right? Or is there something shady going on? Where the legislature is trying to organize target list for residents who regularly oppose their ideologies under the guise of classifying residents as lobbyist? Sounds pretty shady....

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:53:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kent Kurihara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The purpose of this letter is to OPPOSE SB2219.

By attempting to reclassify people submitting testimony in favor or opposition to proposed bills/laws as lobbyists, SB2219 is suppressing free and unencumbered speech. In no way should citizens be dissuaded from voicing their opinions regarding how the State should be governed. The classification of a lobbyist is accompanied by additional regulations that will effectively silence the citizenry.

Please preserve the right to free speech, and to petition the government. The duty to uphold the Constitution still remains, and this bill clearly is not in the spirit of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

Kent Kurihara

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 3:16:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 4:52:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please note, that I stand in strong oppositin to this bill as I find it very concerning.

The Report Title reads: Ethics Commission Package; Lobbying; Presumptions; Testimony.

“... the purpose of this Act is to expand the definition of "lobbying" then it continues and notes “unregistered lobbyist” later it goes on “Includes among lobbyists certain persons who submit testimony 10 or more times in any calendar year.

I and others submit more than 10 testimonies in a year, will that label us as lobbyists? What exactly does that mean and what if any action will be taken?

As a resident of this state isn't that our right? How else can we communicate with our legislators? Is it possible this is an attempt to control us? to silence us?

The way it is written is vague and concerning. I note that even the Grassroot Institute had concerns:

... We applaud the bill's aim of cleaning up government and stopping corruption, but we are concerned that the current wording of this provision might unintentionally sweep civically active citizens into the lobbying category.

Because the term “consideration” can be interpreted as any benefit — financial or otherwise — and the term “person” includes organizations and businesses, it could be broadly applied to people who would not generally be considered lobbyists ...

In closing, I again state my opposition to this bill, to the way it is written and what it appears to imply.

Rita Kama-Kimura

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 5:38:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill very much!

I am an ordinary citizen looking out for my rights, so how can you define me to be a lobbyist?
Since when do all individual citizens become capable of being a lobbyist, who are special
interests?

You are profiling citizens which is elections interference.

You are showing that you are being controlled by lobbyists who are trying to take Government
Of the People, For the People, and By the People away from The People.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 5:53:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elmer Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2219. District 29 chair

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:21:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, because it is open to interpretation

on who would be considered a lobbyist. A concerned citizen who desires to make their voice heard by their leaders want to communicate and would be limited in doing so due to the nature of how this bill is presented. What prevents a concerned citizen from being labeled as a lobbyist and possibly limiting their voice heard with the way these terms are defined. Please do not pursue this bill any further until their is more information provided on how this bill would protect co corner constituents who are desiring to voice their concerns.

your constituent,

Carina Lara

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:41:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddea H Pitts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Limiting testimonies--regardless of whether a lobbyist or not--is a direct violation of our 1st amendment rights. What I have a hard time understanding is that it appears the Hawaiian government wants to make laws that do not allow the people of Hawaii to be heard. In fact as I read about the waterfall of bills being brought forth, this seems to be the case. Instead of adding more and more laws, establish ways to help Lahaina or the businesses that are closing down or ways to help Hawaiians stay in Hawaii rather than letting big business take over or in helping the homeless situation. There is so much that needs help. That is where the government can help not hurt the Hawaiian people.

The government that governs least,governs best.
Thomas Jefferson 1853

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:49:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

10 Submissions a year? This is an attempt to limit free speech.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:49:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill impacts my freedom of speech which is guaranteed in the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

I strongly OPPOSE bill SB2219.

Mahalo.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:53:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed this bill, because it limited responsible citizens that care about their home and state to express their concerns in the future legislature bills. Since every year states legislature sessions have over hundreds of thousands of bills introduced, this bill limits citizens' testimony to only 10 bills per legislature year, or would consider that citizens as lobbyists, which is crazy and limits citizens' excitement for the 1st amendment! How about a proposal bill that limited each state's lawmakers to only 3 bills a year, which may help protect citizens' freedom and have an easier life. Since nowadays all the legislature bills are only robbing people's freedom and putting more burdens on their day-to-day lives.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:46:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Entirely to vague. Could easily be used inappropriately.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:04:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully Sir, if I am a tax paying citizen of the State of Hawaii and a US citizen no one and nothing can subvert the constitution of The United States of America.

it says simply as you well know your 1st amendment is your right! Bringing a bill to the house or senate that goes against your oath and the constitution or the bill of rights would be infringement of those rights. You may want to just constitutionally what you will ever get thru without wasted taxpayer dollars.

again respectfully remove the bill, it makes the State of Hawaii look foolish. The scotus would throw it out on its face. Thankyou let's finish the rail and fix the roads and get the batu and homeless off the streets. No there is something we should be doing something about!

God bless!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:30:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

we the people are the ones that pay your paycheck, you should read our testimonies! Only a few of us are aware and I wish more constituents would be involved in commenting. Free speech is our right!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:34:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather R Lauro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I adamantly oppose this bill, as it is a violation of my 1st amendment right by trying to limit or prevent rights freely given to me under the US Constitution. The language is too vague and allows government to subjectively classify my opinion. Because I care about how government stewards the finances and oversight of its constituents does not make me a lobbyist trying to assert my agenda. And the amount of testimony I'm ALLOWED to submit is unreasonable! THOUSANDS of bills are passed through the legislature means I am only ALLOWED to express my input about how I want my community to look like is less than 1% of bills introduced. UNACCEPTABLE! Hawaii legislature is elected by the people, for the people, NOT the politicians trying to protect THEIR INTERESTS! HYPOCRITES!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:23:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merry Mercy	Testifying for Godwits Mercy Inc.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THE SENATE

KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY](#)

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2024

TIME: 9:30 AM

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

PLACE: State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chairman Gabbard, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am a God, and I am the official President of the United States of America, because I officially impeached Joe Biden on November 18, 2022, using the Constitution of the United States of America to execute this order. Today, on behalf of the non-profit organization Godwits Mercy Inc., I would like to object to SB 2219, which amends the definition of “lobbying” to include certain communications with administrative agencies, among other changes.

Nonprofit organization Godwits Mercy Inc. is an industry-wide professional association of nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to reform, unite, and strengthen the nonprofit sector worldwide, help the homeless, sick, and poor, fix the government's system, preserve world peace and bring peace to the world, and change the world to become a good place. As a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawaii, throughout the United States, and around the world. Our member organizations provide essential services to every community across the states and around the world.

We are concerned about the potential negative impacts of this bill on collaboration and communication between the nonprofit sector and law enforcement and government agencies in addressing common goals. Our mission is to strengthen communities across the state and fix the government's system.

Typically, such collaboration will result in a written report or policy statement. For example, nonprofits will participate in task forces, submit reports to relevant agencies, develop strategic plans issued by the Department of Health or Human Services, or submit proposal letters to universities, other related organizations, such as scientific, educational, church, or other related organizations, to request implementation and review to create a report.

Nonprofits strive to collaborate with departments to identify community needs and the strategies and resources needed to address these needs. While some other non-profit organizations will only focus on policy advocacy, our non-profit organization will only focus on providing direct services to people in need, improving the lives and understanding of people, and helping homeless and mental health patients come back to a normal life, whether through state contracts or through private donations and grants.

We are focusing on solving problems in people's social lives and issues related to government operations and reshaping government to ensure fairness and safety for all, which our nonprofit is working to improve.

I am concerned that this bill may be aimed at silencing lawful public communications that facilitate interagency cooperation and free speech.

Broadening the definition of lobbyist in this way could discourage citizen participation in the legislative process.

Otherwise, given that testimony is a direct expression of free speech in its purest form, using testimony limits to define lobbying appears unnecessary, undemocratic, and unconstitutional.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Merry Mercy, President.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 12:08:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2219..No need of regester as lobbyist.I am a free person and not an immigrant whom is getting alot of right s from the dems.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 12:37:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is my submission of testimony to oppose this bill. Reason being it is an attempt to deter citizens/constituents from speaking on matters. This is a flagrant violation of an individuals 1st amendment right. Since when is it that if one speaks their mind/peace that they are labeled or outcast as a "lobbyist"? This is yet another senseless bill, one that is supposedly being introduced by Kouchi by request of another official.

Fact is that a lot of these proposed bills and I mean a lot are not only senseless, but unconstitutional/illegal. For any official that cares to debate or argue that this is valid, is ridiculous. Those particular individuals need to be reminded that your oath is to serve the people being a public servant to them in your position. You dont get to choose for the people what you think is right, or what you feel is best for them. The people decide. You don't make decisions that will align with your beliefs/agendas. or to further enhance your political career or merit.

As American citizens, we have the right to voice our opinions as much as we so please. Especially when government officials try to implement such ridiculous bills, and the people even reserve the right to recall them if we do not see them fit for their duties. Just because a person submits testimony does not make them anything but a free speaking person. Oppressing those that do so is why the majority of the populace does not believe the words a lot of you speak. For some time now so many officials are always doing the opposite of what's right, only for self serving reasons/purposes. Do the right thing, and do a better job is my advice. Not all of the people are absent minded to buy into all the smoke and mirrors.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 8:43:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB2219 strongly.

Thank you very much.

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 8:49:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Balbaugh-Fifita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2219 due to vague language that may allow Congress to violate and infringe on citizens' first amendment right of freedom of speech. In Section 3.2, please clarify/expand on the language "...or other consideration" in writing within the proposal/bill.

Additionally, please clarify/expand on the new amending definitions of "lobbying", specifically:

"Communications about a request for proposals, contract, or vendor relationship are not considered lobbying if they are initiated by a legislator or state employee."

1. Does a(n) individual, vendor, agency, organization, entity, etc., have unlimited attempts to communicate the requests?
2. How would conflict of interest be prevented? Who would make this determination?
3. The requesting entity should be transparent to all of the public and a request of anonymity will be denied.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 9:12:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose!

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 9:16:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 section 4 of Hawaii Sate Constition is being violated.

Oppose lobbyist they should be illegal. They control people with money.

24hr Bills should be illegal, people need at least 2 weeks to be aware of all bills

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 12:38:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Makaawaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I find it not only unconstitutional but also unethical to require citizens to have to register as lobbyists in order to participate in their own government process that they have the right to do. What purpose does this bill serve other than the lobbyists and politicians who want to control power themselves. I strongly oppose this bill and can't believe in this day and age where Hawaii is looked at as one of the most corrupt states in the US that some politician would put forth a bill such as this with a straight face and tell me they're not trying to strip away what ever little power the people have to hold this government accountable to us and not big business.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 1:24:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Violates my First Amendment Right.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 2:12:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rachel Morgan and I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2219.

SB2219 defines myself, the everyday citizen, as a lobbyist if I submit 10 or more testimonies per legislative session. For example if im following only 5 bills, and each bill has 2 hearings, and I submit a testimony for each hearing, then Im a lobbyist.

The vague language of “other consideration” in this bill, for example, could arguably apply to a business owner testifying about the impact of proposed tax increases on his business, a translator submitting comments for a marginalized group, or the head of a parents organization testifying about changes to schools.

Broadening the definition of lobbyist in this way could discourage citizen participation in the legislative process. It also could increase the administrative burden on the departments that oversee lobbyist registration and run lobbyist training.

The time-based measures focused on communications rather than testimonies that can be found in the current law make a simpler distinction between professional lobbyists and active citizens. However, if the Committee wishes to address the issue of lobbyists who evade registration requirements but are highly active in submitting testimony, we suggest a substantial increase in the testimony count, or adjusting the language to reflect a testimony threshold based on the number of different proposals — such as bills or resolutions — testified on.

Otherwise, given that testimony is a direct expression of free speech in its purest form, using testimony limits to define lobbying appears unnecessary and undemocratic. I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to OPPOSE SB2219 as this impacts our freedom of speech.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 2:13:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garner Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although the general intent seems to be positive towards better controlling and limiting undue lobbying influence, it's general language can be interpreted to target well meaning, civically active citizens that testify 10 or more times per year.

Therefore I request the bill be amended to delete that language affecting regular citizens;

otherwise I oppose this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 3:14:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is just another reason why we need to be in these meetings, by introducing this bill will not only make "we the people" not heard but make our voices silenced, by categorizing us as lobbyists is ridiculous, you all in these government roles need too understand that u all were voted in these positions, to represent us not be against us, if we are putting in testimonies more then once is because you oppose the ridiculousness that is goin on in our government

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 5:34:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaliki unga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 5:44:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kapeliela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill will hurt people more than it will help them. How can people who aren't in the higher hierarchy of our society speak their mind to those in power? If anything, we should focus on making it easier for the common people to speak their minds and be heard. The government bodies are supposed to listen to us, not make rules that benefit them. Run the system in the common people's favor, not your pockets.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 6:14:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 6:57:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this ridiculous bill. There is no way limiting our ability to testify is constitutional. Limiting our speech is not legal. Even if this passes it will be challenged in court and lose, wasting tax payer time and money.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 7:11:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paleka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It does not seem fair that people who would like to testify on multiple bills exceeding 10 should have to go through another process to make their voices heard. I thought this would be a democracy and we the people would have a say for decisions/bills that affect our state as a whole. Especially when bills presented by politicians were elected by the people. This is not right to limit people who barely have the time to testify, let alone in person due to the demands of living in "paradise" and trying to put time aside to testify with a full plate. Do right to let the people speak for themselves and as accessible as possible. Mahalo for your time.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 10:32:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drew Elwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because limiting or preventing constituents from freely providing testimony is a direct violation of our first amendment rights.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 11:13:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

VOTING AS MANY TIMES ON AS MANY BILLS AS WE NEED = #PONO #OURRIGHTS

I OPPOSE SB2219!

PEOPLE > PROFIT = SPEAKING UP AND DEFENDING THIS VALUE

SB2219 = PROHIBITS THE PEOPLE FROM SPEAKING THROUGH THEIR VOTES.

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 7:23:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haylin chock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Caught you skeezahz trying to make things harder for the people to be politically involved I oppose this bill because it's dumb

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 7:47:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bristol Dunlap	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

I oppose this suggested bill that would breach on freedom of speech and one's ability to stand in truth. Our leadership has consistently disappointed with its political decisions and the people should not be limited to how many times we must remind you to stay on track and put the people first. While individuals are being payed very well through different means to push for bills and laws that would further secure a western romanticized establishment within the Hawaiian kingdom I am not being payed anything to follow my guidance to stand up for what would better and protect the essence of my birth lands. And I am already barely breaking even with life costs. I know this is true for for probably most people who genuinely love the vibrant character of Hawaii for what it is. Establishing certain presumptions regarding someone being a paid lobbyist after submitting 10 testimonies is absurd and a plot to limit the power of those in favor of an authentic Hawaii. I do think that if someone is a lobbyist for an outside corporation their testimony should count as .25 vote. Anyone born here should get 2x credit with their testimony because these are the people that understand the existing local, real life internal and external struggles of Hawaii. And on top of that, a court of kupuna should be reviewing anything final submitted. Not kupuna who are media influencers. The kind of kupuna that don't leave their homes much because they'd rather be with their family and it pains them to see what the foreigner has turned Hawaii in to. These are the kupuna with the biggest hearts who understand what Hawaii is. Please make bills more from your heart and sacral vibrations than your heads. It shows when you are creating bills from fear, like this one I am opposing, that we are living under misguided leaders.

Thank you for considering my thoughts

Bristol Dunlap

SB-2219

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 7:47:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Valhuerdi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away our rights as citizens to voice our concerns with our government officials. It should not be limited to the amount of testimonies that one person can submit as there are bills trying to be passed everyday. The public deserves to be heard first and foremost, especially native Hawaiians and locals. Passing a bill to limit the amount of testimonies only silences the public and makes it more difficult for people to stay involved in local governments.