



OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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Written Testimony of
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Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 83

URGING THE OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE STATE OF HAWAII'S OPEN DATA PORTAL BY INCREASING AND EXPANDING THE DATA SETS AVAILABLE ON THE OPEN DATA PORTAL, CENTRALIZING ALL OPEN DATA SETS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS ONTO THE OPEN DATA PORTAL, AND CONTINUALLY UPDATING THE DATA SETS FOR ACCURACY AND RECENCY OF PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA.

Dear Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the committee:

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) **supports** this resolution and offers comments.

The addition of a Chief Data Officer to our staff in the last year has improved our ability to analyze problems and manage the open data site. We are currently planning to re-invigorate the site, which may require replacing the underlying software, acquiring additional data management tools, adding data governance staff, and modifying HRS Section 27-44.

The effort led by the Chief Data Officer will:

- inventory and consolidate all open data to the data.hawaii.gov website,
- improve data quality,
- ensure data recency of publicly accessible data, and
- facilitate data sharing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SCR-83

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 11:14:01 AM

Testimony for HET on 4/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryden Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair De Coite, and distinguished members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology:

My name is Ryden Iwamoto, and I am currently a second year at the University of Chicago studying mathematics and statistics. I was born and raised in Hawaii and foster a deep love for the place I call home, especially after being in the brisk Chicago weather for most of the year.

Part of this love is a desire to see the place I grew up in stay the same—the people, the restaurants, the nature; but part of this love is to grow with Hawaii as it approaches an uncertain future, filled with the challenges of artificial intelligence and rapid technological advancement, an arguably under-supported public education system, economic difficulties, among others.

Even while in Chicago, much of my work, whenever possible, relates back to my interest in solving and investigating problems back home. As part of my mathematics and statistics coursework, I apply statistical and spatial analytical techniques to questions many of my friends, family, and generally, the people of Hawaii are asking. Why does it seem like Hawaii is getting less safe? What does our economy depend on and how can we diversify it? How can we support those who have been historically neglected by an inequitable system? These are just a few of the questions I have heard and attempted to explore over the past two years.

There's just one problem: one that, despite my love for Hawaii, has begun to deter me from further exploring these important questions. The quantity and quality of data available to independent researchers, students, and curious citizens like me is exceptionally limited. Simply due to resource constraints, data is not collected and not able to be provided on certain topics. This is beyond the scope of this resolution. However, in areas where data is collected, data is significantly outdated (at one point, I had to email the manager of the dataset listed on the Hawaii State Open Data Portal to update the data, which had not been updated since 2017, since I was interested in using it) and infrequently updated. When available and up-to-date, data is either of poor quality, providing little insight into the topic at hand, or on unimportant issues (i.e., what analytical insight does a data set with four entries on the underlying credit ratings for the state provide?)

I implore the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology to consider the importance and value of independent inquiry into these questions about the future of the state—my home, our home. In a time characterized by data-driven insight, failure to provide up-to-date, useful and

relevant, and detailed data on open data portals is one of the best ways to position the state and those who care about it to tackle the future blindly.

All the best,

Ryden