



**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
*Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'āina*

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
March 13, 2025

Testimony on  
**S.B. 55 - RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments on S.B. 55** which requires all state agencies adopting, amending, or repealing an administrative rule to make the full text of the agency's rules available on the Office of the Lieutenant Governor's website in a digitally accessible and searchable format.

Improving accessibility is an important component of providing government services. While our office supports the intent of S.B. 55, many departments do not currently have their administrative rules available in a digitally accessible format, making it challenging to consolidate in a single, searchable platform. As such, we request that this measure be deferred to allow our office time to work with each department and attached agency to develop a plan, establish a timeline, and estimate costs to implement this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 55.



House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 2 PM Hearing in Conference Room 325 on  
SB 55, SD1 Relating to Administrative Rules

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 55, SD1.** We also would strongly support a bill amendment to require each county to post all county agency rules, in a digitally accessible and searchable format, on a single county website.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

March 13, 2025, 2 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

**To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**  
**Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair**  
**Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**  
**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB55 SD1 — RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer support for [SB55 SD1](#), which would require all state agencies adopting, amending or repealing a rule to make the full text of the proposed rule available on the website of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in a digitally accessible and searchable format.

Administrative rules govern all aspects of life in Hawaii, from invasive species control to deadlines for the issuance of professional licenses, but currently there is no statewide system that makes it possible for the public to know of and track proposed changes to agencies' administrative rules.

Instead, an interested individual must follow dozens of agencies' calendars and websites for periodic and non-standardized rulemaking notices.

The changes proposed in SB55 would make it far easier for affected parties to learn of changes to administrative rules, thereby promoting transparency and civic engagement in agency rulemaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas  
Director of Strategic Campaigns  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii



House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 55 S.D. 1, Relating to Administrative Rules**

Hearing: March 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of S.B. 55 S.D. 1.

This measure would help members of the public to better understand and track proposed agency rules by making the full text of proposals available on a centralized website. We commend the Legislature's effort to increase transparency and access in the agency rulemaking process, which will promote more informed public participation.

We also suggest the following amendment at page 2, lines 10 - 12, to better effectuate the intent of this bill.

"Beginning January 1, 2027, [~~all state agencies~~] each agency, through the office of the lieutenant governor, shall make available on the website of the office of the lieutenant governor the full text of the rules of the agency in a digitally accessible. . . ."

Section 91-4(a) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes presently requires county clerks to transmit to the lieutenant governor's office a certified "paper" copy of final county rules. The amendment recommended above conforms that practice to the digital age and would promote greater and more convenient public access to state *and* county rules.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 55 S.D. 1.



**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:12:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.