



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of SB733

Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 1/31/2025

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and all Committee members,

On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 38,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, we write in strong support of House Bill 772, relating to a continuous legislative session, which would enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii's lawmaking process. Our members and supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka 'oiwi, keiki and kūpuna, from Kaua'i to Kohala, Kailua to Kapolei and every place in between. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people — not big money interests — first. This bill would help enhance that vision and goal.

The current legislative schedule makes it nearly impossible for most ordinary working people to participate in the democratic process. The rapid pace and flurry of bills is overwhelming, and ordinary people can barely track what is going on, let alone make time to submit testimony, speak with their representatives, or show up to make their voices heard.

This means that the legislature is dominated by paid lobbyists, the professional class, retirees, and the wealthy. What about the farmers and fishermen? What about the fast food workers? What about the domestic workers? Janitors? Restaurant servers?

Shouldn't their voices get to equally be heard?

By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Additionally, **a year-round Legislature could be supportive to Legislators and their staff by allowing for more deliberation, debate, and research — resulting in more thoughtful policymaking.** Rather than compressing debate and decision making into a short window, a year long legislature would allow for a more intentional approach to addressing urgent and complex issues. Lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decision, including the true budgetary impacts, and provide for more extended research and deliberation.

Lastly, **a year-long legislature could make practical the Capitol abiding by the full extent of the Sunshine Laws** that apply to most other governmental bodies, leading to **greater public transparency and accountability.**

For these reasons, we urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: SB733
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 9:15am; Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA is submitting testimony in STRONG Support of SB733, which, among many relevant to a continuous legislature, establishes a continuous Legislature and requires the Legislature to convene at least once monthly.

Complex challenges like the housing shortage, growing environmental concerns, and the need for quality public education, amongst many issues, call for more time than our current session allows. By meeting throughout the year, lawmakers can address issues as they arise rather than waiting for the next session or a special session.

In just the past five years, our state has experienced many emergency crises that require faster or more flexible responses. Recent environmental emergencies like the Red Hill fuel leak revealed the need for steady and ongoing legislative oversight. During the COVID-19 pandemic, policies had to be revisited and adjusted often. Even with the Lahaina fire, we needed our state legislature to address the urgent need for improved disaster response protocols and long-term recovery plans for affected communities. However, this part-time calendar just cannot keep pace with the constant changes.

Thousands of bills are introduced each year, yet many do not receive full consideration under the current framework. Measures are even frequently postponed because committee chairs believe they lack sufficient time to make informed decisions. Consequently, more than half of the proposals introduced at the beginning of the legislative session are either deferred or not scheduled for a hearing.

It is important to note that the state Constitution did not prevent the legislature from meeting for only 60 days prior to 1968, and this change was only enacted during the 1968 constitutional convention.

Additionally, a year-round legislature will improve transparency and public engagement. When hearings are more frequent and predictable, residents can schedule testimony without feeling rushed and not deter them from participating. This also helps residents living in the neighbor islands and rural areas who may face travel or technology obstacles, giving them more time to prepare and, should they choose, be present in person.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Thank you for your support and consideration,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:56:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session. Brilliant Idea!

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

Please vote Yes on SB733.

Mahalo Nui

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:32:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
H. Doug Matsuoka	Testifying for Hawaii Guerrilla Video Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is H. Doug Matsuoka, I am an officer of Kokua Council, and the co-founder of Hawaii Guerrilla Video Hui.

I strongly support SB733 establishing a continuous Legislature and prohibiting legislators from holding private sector employment during their term. This will reduce the opportunities for legislators to leverage legislation for personal gain, and in so doing will increase the trust the public has in the institution of the Hawaii Legislature itself.

Prohibiting private sector employment will also reduce the potential conflicts of interest of attorney legislators' nondisclosure of their private clients under attorney-client privilege. Again, this would increase the public's trust in the system. It would not only reduce opportunities for corruption, but the suspicion of such by the public.

A continuous session will help eliminate the frenetic calendar-based practice of the legislature which discourages public participation in the legislative process. The county councils already have a continuous year round session so the concept is practical and will better serve the public good.

Mahalo for your attention to this.

H. Doug Matsuoka

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:24:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

I SUPPORT SB733.

MAHALO FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION,

ANN V SAFFERY



SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:27:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering one of the many bills introduced this year that aim to expand the legislative session from 60 days, to year round or continuous. More than 3000 bills between house and the senate were introduced this year. The pace at which the hearings are held is completely unsustainable for anyone who's not financially compensated to participate in.

I'm hoping that by expanding to a year round or continuous model, lawmakers could have more time to collaborate in advance on legislation, so 4 similar bills are not introduced. We can also pay lawmakers a full time salary for a full time job, so there would be no need for outside employment. The pace at which hearings are scheduled, testimony is accepted, and provided for review can be expanded, so the general public can have proper opportunity to participate. More time for bill review could allow for fiscal notes to be added to bills; allowing everyone to understand the financial impact the bill truly has.

Many of the good government reforms we are aiming to pass would be easier to implement with a year round model.

Mahalo,

Aria Juliet Castillo, Kailua HI

January 28, 2024

To: **COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**
Re: **January 31, 2025 HEARING on SB733 (Continuous Legislative Session)**

Aloha JDC Committee Members,

I appreciate the effort of SB733 to make our state legislature better able to serve the people. Being a legislator *should* be a full-time job if a legislator is going to do a good job.

However, it makes no sense whatsoever to disqualify legislators who maintain a second job in the private sector, but allow a second job in government (except for emergency civil defense and disaster relief positions). No one can hold two jobs (or appointments) simultaneously and do them both well. Besides, isn't this double dipping? It's not right.

I request that Section 8 of SB733 be simple, clear, and amended to read as follows:

DISQUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 8. No member of the legislature, during the term for which the member is elected or appointed, shall hold any other position of employment, except the member may serve in the United States military reserves, reserve police officers, or officers of emergency organizations for civilian defense or disaster relief. The legislature may prescribe further disqualifications and exceptions.

Mahalo,


Vanessa Ott

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S.B. NO. 733

7 SECTION 2. Article III, section 8, of the Constitution of
8 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

9 **"DISQUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS**

10 **Section 8.** No member of the legislature ~~[shall hold any~~
11 ~~other public office under the State, nor shall the member],~~
12 during the term for which the member is elected or appointed,
13 shall hold any position of employment ~~in the private sector.~~
14 ~~The member may serve in the United States military reserves,~~
15 ~~National Guard, or hold any lawful position of government~~
16 ~~employment; provided that the member shall not be elected or~~
17 ~~appointed to any public office or employment [which] that shall~~
18 ~~have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been~~
19 ~~increased, by legislative act during [such] the term. The term~~
20 ~~"public office," for the purposes of this section, shall not~~
21 ~~include notaries public, reserve police officers or officers of~~

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S.B. NO. 733

1 emergency organizations for civilian defense or disaster relief.
2 The legislature may prescribe further disqualifications.
and exceptions

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:28:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emelia and I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:30:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Stayton, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:56:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:56:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fred Hofer, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Fred Hofer

Hilo

Your Name, Town

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:59:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 733 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A CONTINUOUS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:15:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Smith, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. The scope of this bill will provide more clarity to citizens about the legislative process, as well as establish honest and open forms of communication between lawmakers and the citizens they serve.

As a young person and newly registered voter, I anticipate that this bill will have many benefits for improving and maintaining community involvement in the Hawaii State Legislature. An extended session means that citizens have more time to tune in and learn about bills as they are introduced and passed year round. It also streamlines the process and eliminates some of the confusion surrounding timelines.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires. Ultimately, this means needs are getting addressed, community members are being heard, and that lawmakers are committed to their position as civil servants.

Please support this reformative bill!

Mahalo for your consideration.

Danielle Smith, Kapolei Homesteads

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:43:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:27:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory Brower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mallory Brower and I am writing in strong support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session. A full time legislature means greater accountability and minimizes conflicts of interest. I feel this bill will make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires. Please support!

Thank you,

Mallory

Hilo, HI 96720

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:09:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session. This is beneficial because it will allow for greater government efficiency (a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action and earlier budget finalization) as well as greater accountability since lawmakers can focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:00:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in strong support of SB 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session in Hawai‘i.

I sit on the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s Executive Commission, serve as a board member for the Hawai‘i Workers Center, and am a lineal descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom. In these roles, I witness firsthand the urgent need for more transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in our legislative process. A full-time legislature ensures that our lawmakers are consistently engaged with the people they serve, rather than operating under rushed timelines that limit public participation.

Prohibiting outside employment is a necessary step toward eliminating conflicts of interest and ensuring that legislators are fully dedicated to the needs of their constituents. Too often, critical community issues—such as housing, environmental protections, and workers’ rights—are delayed due to legislative recesses and external commitments.

The provisions in SB 733—such as requiring all bills to be submitted within two years and giving the governor a 90-day deadline to act—create a more efficient and accountable government. It allows for more public testimony, more collaboration, and a more thoughtful, community-centered legislative process.

I urge you to pass SB 733 to move Hawai‘i toward a more equitable and effective government that truly prioritizes the voices of its people.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:36:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you all for each effort made to keep our government functioning for the benefit of all.

I strongly support SB733 for advocating continuous, monthly sessions.

As a former Condominium Board Member, I realize the necessity to have detailed and frequent open meetings in order to maintain connection with other board members and to remain knowledgeable of issues at hand.

I have experienced that lack of continuous discussion often leads to omission of documentation of decisions made without ratification thereof, and subsequent dismissal of heretofore fiercely discussed "action to be taken".

Any delay in needed legislation extends time and effort, possibly to the detriment of governmental progress and/or citizen's welfare.

Please consider continuous sessions to handle our rapidly changing daily lives without undue delays.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

Midori Marcia Sue Trent - Kupuna

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:54:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This will also allow for much more time for consideration of bills instead of cramming them into one short session.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Faccenda

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:58:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill to establish a continuous Legislative session. The current part-time Legislature is sufficient. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:08:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is kimdonghyeon, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:10:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

Thank you very much!

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:05:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Noreen Dougherty, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. Mahalo.

Noreen Dougherty

Kapaa, Kauai

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:04:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:18:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

A continuous season would allow for more hearings and more public testimony and input. This is important to me because so often this period is so short and we the citizens don't have enough time to properly prepare testimony.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:33:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I deeply oppose this bill

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:42:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karen Mountain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am unsure the purpose of this one. It sounds like a way to get a pay raise. We don't need to amend the state constitution, do you your job. You are elected to serve. Pay should be low like jury duty.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:45:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this Bill.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:52:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:05:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to this bil. We absolutely do not need continuous legislative sessions, it is a total waste of time and tax money.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:09:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

mahalo nui

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:29:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Griffin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current part-time sessions shall suffice for making amendments to the constitution this is so the public can keep an eye on what is being done.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:26:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support SB733 to establish a continuous legislature. Having a continuous legislature, I think, would lead to more time for public input and for legislators to thoroughly review bills.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:28:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

OPPOSE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:34:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michele Nihipali, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

Having a full time legislature will reduce the current legialative "rush" in effect to get important governement business done in a very short time frame.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:42:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and hope you will too.

Mahalo

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:04:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Text

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:50:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this proposed amendment. While the intention of a part-time session is well-intended, the problems facing people in Hawaii today are too dynamic and cannot be put on hold for eight months of the year. Especially in today's ever-evolving and changing world, most people cannot wait for their representative or senator to come back from break, and maybe, if they have the time, they will address that particular problem. I know that it's not easy on your guy's end as well; I have worked in the capital for a couple of years. I am aware of the stress, the deadlines, and the problems getting quorum. I know how often bills die not because of political differences but because of trivial things such as someone forgetting to sign a document or a clerk working at 2 a.m. filing the wrong paperwork. This proposition will give you more time to be reflexive toward your constituent's needs and avoid crunch times and cattle calls. So please support this bill, if not for your constituents, so you don't have to work your staff to death.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:55:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

Currently, the Legislature’s limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:08:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

Currently, the Legislature’s limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:37:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing from Kona in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

mahalo for supporting bills that strengthen our democratic process.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:43:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:46:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:49:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:50:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

UNTIL HAWAII FIXES THEIR ELECTIONS (FIX THE FRAUD & GET RID OF THE MACHINES/ MAIL IN CHEATING/ NO CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROVIDED/ OUTDATED VOTER ROLLS, ETC.,) I OPPOSE ANY BILL RELATING TO OUR ELECTIONS - GIVEN THE FACT THAT THIS IS COMING FROM THE SAME GROUP WHO REFUSES TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE ABOVE VOTER FRAUD ISSUES!

SINCERELY, BART

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:54:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

A continuous session would ensure greater opportunities for constituents to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:18:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcia Kemble and I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates — like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:23:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure, mahalo.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:28:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The schedule of the business of the legislature always looks daunting. It seems that could be ameliorated with an extended session.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:34:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:38:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB733.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:40:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tinamarie Cura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

Currently, the Legislature’s limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:48:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This important bill would allow for better governance - the current incredibly short timeframe does not allow for community input or careful consideration of the myriad of issues our legislators must evaluate each year.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:09:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

Currently, the Legislature’s limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:03:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am generally in favor of SB733. I like the idea of a bill having a shelf life of two years rather than a duration of only a couple of months due to the current abbreviated session time. I also believe that if legislators are full-time and don't have outside employment, those who wish to be in the Legislature are people who really want to be there and they will be less beholden to financial interests such as the whims of the other employer. However, I think this bill really needs to come on the heels of other bills that support campaign finance reform so that outside interests cozy up to legislators to pad their limited government salary. But the sentiment is generally in the right direction. Mahalo.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:05:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support a year long legislative session.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:53:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this Bill!!

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:45:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Kerr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The longer the legislature is in session, the more onerous laws and regulations they pass. It gives the legislators more time to think up stupid taxes and fees. We are over-regulated and over-taxed. Why do you think so many people are leaving the State?

It should remain a part-time legislature. In fact, I would prefer every-other-year legislature.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kerr

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:00:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

Currently, the Legislature’s limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Safia N. Gravel

Hilo

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:54:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a great bill. Work for the legislators continues all year, 24/7, yet the legislature is in session for less than four months. Many important issues arise in the interim, and basically have to wait until the next January to be addressed. This must move forward.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:12:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

No constitutional amendment! I object to a continuous legislative session.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:16:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure having a continuous legislative session makes a lot more sense.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:50:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full-time employees of the State. Hmm. That should read "Employees of the PEOPLE," which is much more accurate as per our state and federal Constitutions ... or have you forgotten who is above you in terms of the Constitutional arrangement of our government at all levels? Who is authorized, constitutionally, to undo a government that no longer adheres to the Constitution and no longer serves the people?

It stinks to high heaven that someone can be employed by the GOVERNMENT and be a legislator, but cannot be in private employment and a legislator. This is an extraordinary displacement of where one's focus, one's allegiance, should be...

Our founders foresaw that citizens would serve a brief term or two and then return to civilian life. This smacks of the opposite...

How about you propose strong term limits instead?

And do you already consider this a "done deal?" I ask because Ballotpedia AND NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures) list Hawaii as a full time legislature already -

https://ballotpedia.org/States_with_a_full-time_legislature

<https://www.ncsl.org/about-state-legislatures/full-and-part-time-legislatures>

Ballotpedia

American states have a full-time state legislature. A full-time state legislature is defined as a legislature that meets throughout the year. All other legislators are considered part-time because they only meet for a portion of the year.

The full-time [state legislatures](#) are:

- [Alaska State Legislature](#)
- [California State Legislature](#)
- [Hawaii State Legislature](#)
- [Illinois State Legislature](#)
- [Massachusetts State Legislature](#)

- [Michigan State Legislature](#)
- [New York State Legislature](#)
- [Ohio State Legislature](#)
- [Pennsylvania General Assembly](#)
- [Wisconsin State Legislature](#)

NCSL:

Light Green: **Full-time Lite** (6)

- Alaska
- **Hawaii**
- Illinois
- Massachusetts
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:38:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liat Portner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the committee,

My name is Liat Portner and I support SB733. These amendments to the State constitution are impotent steps towards improving the democratic processes of our state, including opportunities for individuals to participate.

Mahalo for your service,

Liat Portner, Hale'iwa

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:48:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More effective, efficient possibly.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:03:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

A full time legislature would reduce the rush to meet strict deadlines, allow more time for debate and refinement of crucial proposals, and give the public greater opportunity to provide input. It would also reduce the chance of duplicative legislation, as sometimes happens with our current semi-annual sessions.

I STRONGLY URGE this Committee to SUPPORT a full time legislature!

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:28:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 733, which proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and efficiency in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

Currently, the Legislature’s limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 733 to make our government more accessible and representative of the people it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:38:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
hilinai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i faces **urgent issues** that cannot be effectively addressed under the current legislative structure. By establishing a **year-long legislative session**, SB733 ensures:

- ✔ More **time for public input** on policies affecting our communities
- ✔ **Greater accountability** from legislators who should be focused on public service, not private-sector jobs
- ✔ A **streamlined process** that prevents rushed legislation and last-minute deals

Continuous legislative work means **real solutions, not political games**. Our lawmakers should be working for us year-round.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:49:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Thank you.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:00:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Opposition to SB733

SB733 proposes a fundamental shift in Hawaii’s governance by transitioning the legislature from a part-time to a full-time body, requiring lawmakers to meet at least once a month. While this may seem like a step toward increased efficiency, in reality, it creates more bureaucracy, increases costs, and restricts citizen representation in government. This bill should be opposed for several key reasons.

1. Increased Costs Without Justification

Transitioning to a full-time legislature means significantly higher costs for taxpayers. Legislators will require higher salaries, expanded staff, and more resources to operate year-round. Hawaii already faces budget challenges in areas like housing, education, and public infrastructure—why should taxpayers foot the bill for lawmakers to stay in session continuously? The bill offers no clear evidence that a full-time legislature would result in better governance, only that it would cost more.

2. Unnecessary Expansion of Government

The current part-time legislative system ensures that government remains limited and accountable. Requiring lawmakers to meet every month invites overregulation, more laws, and increased government interference in citizens’ lives. More session time does not necessarily lead to better laws—it often leads to over-legislation, where lawmakers feel compelled to pass bills simply because they have more time to do so.

3. Exclusion of Working Professionals from Public Office

One of the most troubling aspects of SB733 is its ban on private-sector employment for legislators. This restriction effectively shuts out working professionals, business owners, and industry experts from serving in government. Instead, it creates a political class of career legislators who are disconnected from the real-world challenges of Hawaii’s economy. The best legislatures are made up of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences, not just full-time politicians.

4. No Real Demand for a Year-Round Legislature

Hawaii has functioned effectively with a part-time legislature for decades. There is no overwhelming public demand for continuous sessions, nor is there evidence that the state's current system is failing due to a lack of legislative time. Most pressing issues can already be handled through special sessions, making a full-time legislative body redundant and unnecessary.

5. Increased Political Influence and Lobbyist Power

A year-round legislature would give lobbyists and special interest groups even more time to influence lawmakers. The longer legislators are in session, the more opportunity there is for outside pressure to shape policy, often at the expense of everyday citizens. A part-time system limits the power of professional lobbyists and forces legislators to focus on the most critical issues rather than being pulled in every direction.

Conclusion

SB733 is a costly, unnecessary expansion of government that would burden taxpayers, restrict citizen participation, and encourage career politicians rather than citizen-legislators. The current part-time system keeps government accountable and ensures that laws are passed efficiently. There is no compelling reason to change this system other than to increase legislative pay and power. Instead of creating a full-time legislature, Hawaii should focus on improving efficiency within the existing framework. For these reasons, SB733 should be strongly opposed.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:45:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:15:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I appose this Bill

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:17:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB-733.

A year-round legislature will increase costs significantly for taxpayers. The operational costs, including salaries for legislators and staff, maintenance of the Capitol building, and the expenses associated with a year round session, would rise. Honolulu Civil Beat discussed the potential cost implications of extending the legislative session, highlighting that such changes would require additional funding for staff and operational expenses. (Read <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/02/should-hawaiis-legislature-meet-year-round/>)

The current session length allows for focused public participation where citizens can engage more intensely over a shorter period. Extending the session will dilute public involvement, as it becomes harder for the public to keep up with legislative activities over an extended period. This will also impact the ability of advocacy groups and individuals to effectively lobby or provide testimony on bills. A full-time legislature will shift the balance of power, giving more control to the legislative body at the expense of oversight by the public. Remember, all political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people.

Hawaii's legislative structure has been part-time for decades, reflecting the constitutional intent of our framers to maintain legislators as part-time public servants. This is beneficial for keeping legislators connected to the everyday realities of their constituents.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on SB-733.

To: Judicial Chair Rhoads and Committee Members
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025, 9:15 am

In strong support of SB733

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members—

SB733 proposes a continuous legislative session to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and sanity in Hawaii's lawmaking process.

The current session calendar tries to force thousands of bills through up to six committees and six floor readings in under nine weeks of official working days. Senators and Representatives end up having to work through weekends, holidays and "recesses." Hundreds of worthy bills are passed over, deferred, ignored altogether or just run out of time. It's inefficient in the extreme. Lawmakers can't keep up with it. The public can't keep up with it.

Outrageously tight deadlines and a blizzard of hearings keep lawmakers from understanding scores of bills, let alone giving them careful consideration. Advocates rush from hearing to hearing. Constituents struggle to stay even slightly informed on bills and innumerable amendments. Transparency is nearly impossible and countless good ideas die in the chaos.

A year-round Legislature would allow lawmakers to identify worthy bills, discuss their merits at a reasonable pace, and vote from an informed, considered point of view.

In a continuous session, regular citizens would have time to schedule their participation in the democratic process, amidst all their other obligations. They could consult with their representatives and contribute opinions and feedback.

SB733 would make Hawaii a more functional democracy.

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 3:40:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I will provide testimony via zoom.

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:37:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose sb733 I vote no on continuous legislative sessions

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:44:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose sb733

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:35:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Grandinetti, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Andrew Grandinetti, PhD

Mililani

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:42:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiromi Nakada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Hiromi and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Hiromi Nakada, Mililani

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:12:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The current-part time legislature keeps govt. to continue to be checked and balanced.

Thank you,

Carina Lara

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:14:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this as it does not align with our local values and Aloha.

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:23:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:44:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meizhu Lui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear friends, our trusted Senators,

There are so many important bills that go unheard because of the short legislative session. For the state's residents most of whom work full time jobs, we should be able to expect more action from our legislators, whom we support with our tax dollars and our votes. We appreciate what you do - but more could be done to improve our wonderful state.

Please support SB 733.

Aloha!

Meizhu Lui

Papaaloa, HI

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:08:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members, Judiciary Committee,

My name is Diane Ware and I live in Ka'u moku near Volcano. I strongly support increasing transparency and constituent involvement in the legislative process by lengthening the session.

Currently, the Legislature's limited session schedule makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the democratic process. By establishing a continuous session, SB 733 ensures that everyday people—who must balance work, family, and other commitments—have greater opportunities to engage with their elected representatives, provide testimony, and follow legislative developments in real time.

Moreover, a year-round Legislature fosters more thoughtful policymaking. It allows for a more measured approach to addressing urgent issues rather than compressing debate into a short window. This system will lead to greater transparency and accountability, as lawmakers will have more time to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

99-7815 Kapoha Pl Volcanoes

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:40:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” (Matthew 6:24). Politicians are fond of saying they are the servants of the people. How can they focus on that responsibility if they have outside employment?

And when all legislators have no other employment it will be easy enough for all of them to serve the people at monthly sessions to deal with immediate issues immediately.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:07:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: January 30, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for SB733

Measure Title: PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE HAWAII
STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A
CONTINUOUS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

Report Title: Continuous Legislative Session; Constitutional
Amendment; Constitutional Repeal (ConAm)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I am in support of Senate Bill 733 given the importance of the function of the legislature as well as the productivity that can result if a lengthier legislative session is implemented. Thank you for introducing this bill and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:16:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I most strongly oppose SB733.

The provisions of this bill are unnecessary and unwanted.

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 8:21:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Egbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because our elected officials should be working the same hours as the people they serve. Too much of their time is spent fundraising and meeting with corporate lobbyists instead of addressing the real issues that impact our communities. They should be required to work year-round, focusing on critical challenges such as the rising cost of living, the climate crisis, housing shortages, and government corruption—issues that affect us all. It's time for our leaders to prioritize the people over politics

LATE

SB-733

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 8:22:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Issues have multiplied and become more complicated. This bill would help residents to be able to engage with legislators.

Mahalo

Bill and Barbara Best, Wailuku