



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 289
Hearing Date/Time: January 30, 2025, 9:15 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of SB 289, Relating to Ethics Administrative Fines

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

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) supports SB 289, establishing an expedited enforcement process to address violations of Hawai‘i Revised Statutes chapters 84 and 97. Importantly, this bill minimizes time and expense while maintaining due process rights.

This bill is modeled on a similar law established for the Hawai‘i Campaign Spending Commission. It allows the Commission to issue a proposed order and fine of up to \$1,000 for violations of the ethics code or lobbying law (Hawai‘i Revised Statutes chapters 84 and 97). The respondent may request a hearing within twenty days. If the respondent does not request a hearing, the order becomes final.

This bill aims to expedite the enforcement process for both the Commission and the respondent. The current charge process can take 5-6 months and may require the respondent to respond to a charge multiple times. For more straightforward matters where the facts and law are not in question, expediting the process may reduce the burden on respondents and minimize unnecessary waste of state time and resources.

This is a common-sense measure. By supporting the proposed expedited enforcement process for the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission, this Legislature demonstrates its commitment to preserving the public’s confidence in government institutions while minimizing the burden on respondents and minimizing a potential waste of state resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 289.

Very truly yours,

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

COUNTY COUNCIL

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January 27, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 286, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CAREER CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION,
SB 287, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
AND
SB 289, RELATING TO ETHICS ADMINISTRATIVE FINES
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 286, Making an Appropriation for Career Criminal Prosecution, SB 287, Making an Appropriation for the Victim Witness Assistance Program, and SB 289, Relating to Ethics Administrative Fines. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of SB 286, SB 287, and SB 289, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 286, SB 287, and SB 289. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:ss

SB-289

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:48:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey Tabar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support