

**LATE**



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

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
February 19, 2025

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 rules of the agency available on the website of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in a digitally accessible and searchable format.

Improving accessibility is an important component of providing government services and if passed, we will work with the Legislature and state agencies to implement the intent of the measure.

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

**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:50:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Henry Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In addition to Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Public Utilities Commission still has the older set of regulations known as "General Orders." These should also be included.



Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

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

Hearing: February 19, 2025 at 9:45 a.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.

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



Feb. 19, 2025, 9:45 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol

Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

**To: Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair**

**Sen. Mike Gabbard, 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 Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard 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

**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 5:48:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Jaworowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've been teaching LAW 101, the Hawaii Legal System, at Kapiolani community college since 2008. One of the areas we cover is searching and applying the state administrative rules. While over time the admin rules have gotten a little bit better – at one point they were just unsearchable PDFs – they certainly are not uniformly accessible and searchable. As these administrative rules are laws that govern the behavior of citizens of the state, there was no reason that they should not be as accessible as the Hawaii revised statutes. Please pass this bill.

**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 10:27:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please note error in effective date.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love

**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 8:41:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure, tranparancy in govt entities is a must.

**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 6:36:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William K. Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB55

**LATE**

**SB-55-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 3:07:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in full support of SB55 SD1! Our Lt. Governor should be fully aware of everything that is going on in our state and county agencies to assist the decision making of the Governor. Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke with all her years of experiences in the House Finance Committee has been a valuable resource for making the decisions needed for our Hawaii people today! Mahalo for supporting this bill and the work of the Lt. Governor, who really is SOMEBODY and doesn't hold a nothing position, just as a stepping stone to be the Governor of Hawaii!