

SB2682

LATE

TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

FEBRUARY 7, 2014
10:00 a.m.

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2682
TITLE: Relating to Financial Disclosure Statements

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to extend to paid members of state boards and commissions described under Section 84-17(c)(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), including members of the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), the requirement under HRS § 84-17(d) that financial disclosure statements made to the State Ethics Commission also be deemed public records and be made available for inspection and duplication.

POSITION:

The Commission would like to offer the following comments for the Committee’s consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the principle of open and transparent government, however, requiring some board and commission members to disclose their personal finances publicly may discourage the most qualified candidates from participating in these roles.

Specifically for the Commission, the Commission would like to suggest for the Committee’s consideration that Commissioners instead file with their current statutorily required financial disclosure statements an affidavit affirming that he or she does not have a financial interest in any business regulated by the Commission. The suggested alternative may be a more focused and direct method of confirming the lack of potential financial conflicts for a Commissioner.

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