



Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ronald Kouchi

Friday 02/27/2015 at 9:00 AM in Room 211
SB996 SD1 Relating to Ethics

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB996 SD1.

SB996 would appropriate funds to the state ethics commission to design and develop a system that allows filers to electronically file required statements and reports with the state ethics commission.

Currently, any “electronic filing” that the Ethics Commission requires (e.g. lobbyist expenditures) is in an antiquated format. That is: these reports can be filed via emailing a pdf form online, which is not searchable, and its data cannot be extracted in spreadsheet formats-- thus making it more difficult for interested citizens to analyze available data. Ideally, we would have an electronic system that would require electronic filing and data input capabilities that would give citizens the ability to search, extract, and analyze data filed with the Ethics Commission. We feel that SB996 would give the Ethics Commission the resources and flexibility to set this sort of system up.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting SB996 SD1.**

SB996

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: State Government, including the legislature, has made great strides in the past few years in putting information on-line. This bill proposes, for a quite minor cost, to continue that progress. I urge you to support it.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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SB996

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shawna L. Kaanaana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB996

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rechung Fujihira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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PETER L. FRITZ
200 NORTH VINEYARD BOULEVARD, #430
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
TELEPHONE (SPRINT IP RELAY): (808) 568-0077
E-MAIL: PLFLEGIS@FRITZHQ.COM

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Testimony on S.B. 996 SD1
Hearing: February 18, 2015

(RELATING TO ETHICS)

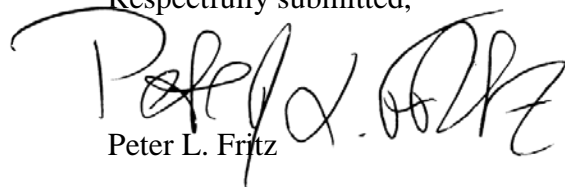
Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee. My name is Peter Fritz. I am an attorney and an individual with a disability. I have served on the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council and the Disability and Communication Access Board and I am familiar with the issues faced by individuals with disabilities when trying to access information on state websites. I am testifying in support of this bill.

This bill appropriates funds to the State Ethics Commission to design and develop a system that allows filers to electronically file required statements and reports with the state ethics commission.

The Americans with Disability Act (“ADA”) will have its 25th anniversary on July 26, 2015. Standards for accessibility of electronic information were established in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and these standards were incorporated into Comptroller’s Memorandum 2010-28. While the availability of information posted electronically on the Internet has increased accessibility to information for individuals with disabilities, unfortunately the design of the current Ethics Commission’s website is not completely accessible to users with disabilities and does not meet the standards of Title II of the ADA, Section 508 or Comptroller’s Memorandum 2010-28. In a nutshell, some of the electronic forms currently on the website are not accessible to visually impaired individuals using text to speech software such as JAWS[®] or screen magnification programs such as ZoomText.

I support an appropriation that that includes redesigning the website so that individuals with disabilities can access information on the website and file required statements electronically.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter L. Fritz