



February 7, 2018

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Russel E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Conference Room 224  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony on SB 3092, Relating to Open Government

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in improving government services for every Hawai'i resident on every island. THG supports Senate Bill 3092, Relating to Open Government, which requires the Office of Information Practices (OIP) to resolve all public complaints about noncompliance with Chapter 92F and Part I of Chapter 92, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, within six months from the date OIP receives the complaint.

THG was established to promote an open, transparent, and responsive Hawai'i government. We advocate improving government business practices through technology to ensure government employees, residents and businesses have convenient and secure access to reliable information and data on demand. Our goal is to have government services that are streamlined, integrated and delivered in ways that exceed the expectations of the public and the needs of Hawai'i's businesses.

We therefore support the passage of SB 3092 to improve processes for addressing public complaints about violations of the public records law so that they may be as "expeditious" as possible, as intended by the Legislature upon establishing OIP. The timeliness of OIP's opinions on appeals is often critical to their relevance to a wide range of topics, and the inability to access information for years while waiting for an OIP opinion can be detrimental to civic discussion. Extended delays may also impede the collection of empirical data, which is essential to making informed decisions about our communities and industries.

By requiring OIP to resolve public complaints within six months, there will be a clear priority placed on expediting reviews and bringing Hawai'i timeframes into alignment with those found in other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.