



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: S.B. 955
Hearing Date/Time: March 14, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
S.B. 955, Relating to Public Financial Disclosure Statement

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") supports S.B. 955, which adds Executive Directors to the list of state officials whose financial disclosure statements are public.

The Commission supports legislation that promotes openness and transparency in government; publicizing the financial disclosure statements of executive directors (such as the undersigned, the Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission) will help to ensure the public's trust in state officials.

The Commission recognizes the importance of recruiting and maintaining highly qualified employees, and the Legislature has expressed some concern to the Commission in the past that public financial disclosure statements can be a deterrent to public service (particularly for volunteers on boards and commissions). On balance, however, the Commission believes that publication of executive directors' and deputy directors' financial disclosure statements is good public policy.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission's work and for considering the Commission's testimony on S.B. 955.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck
Executive Director and General Counsel



March 14, 2019

Rep. Chris Lee
House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senate Bill 955

Chairman Lee and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists endorses this bill.

It would provide more openness and transparency in government. Executive directors can wield a lot of clout and power in and determine the direction of agencies and boards, some of which are semiautonomous and not directly answerable to department directors.

This bill could bolster public's trust in state officials. This benefit should outweigh concerns about recruiting such employees.

Thank you,

Stirling Morita
Hawaii Chapter SPJ



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, March 14, 2019, 2 PM Hearing in State Capitol Room 325

SENATE BILL 955, RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Lee and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 955 which provides that the financial disclosure statements of the executive directors of state agencies are public records.

Because the Legislature is considering legislation to allow private development and use of public property at Aloha Stadium, we suggest amending SB 955 to require a public financial disclosure statement from the members of the Stadium Authority. And because the Legislature is considering legislation to transfer jurisdiction over private development and use of state airport property to a proposed Airports Corporation, we suggest amending SB 955 to require a public financial disclosure statement from the members of any board or authority with jurisdiction for state airports.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.