
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NEIGHBOR ISLAND EQUAL ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS
THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's geographic
2 formation as an archipelago of islands is an obstacle to active
3 participation in the legislative process by neighbor island
4 residents. While committees accept written testimony, in-
5 person, face-to-face testimony can have more influence on
6 legislators and the media. For a neighbor island resident,
7 however, physically attending a legislative committee hearing
8 and testifying on a measure can cost upwards of \$300 per day and
9 require taking time off from work. This is an unreasonable and
10 undemocratic barrier for the approximately four hundred thousand
11 people living in neighbor island counties, who deserve an equal
12 chance to be heard.

13 Alaska, Nevada, Nebraska, and Washington have successful
14 remote testimony programs. The legislature finds that Hawaii
15 can join these states by creating a way for citizens to testify
16 on legislation through audiovisual technology.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require that each chamber of
2 the legislature establish the procedures and technical setup
3 necessary for Hawaii residents to present oral testimony at
4 legislative committee hearings through audiovisual technology.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
6 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
7 read as follows:

8 "§21- Legislative hearing videoconferencing; rules.

9 Each chamber of the legislature shall establish, by rule,
10 procedures that enable all Hawaii residents to present oral
11 testimony at legislative committee hearings through the use of
12 audiovisual videoconferencing technology."

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
16 the purpose of establishing audiovisual videoconferencing
17 technology in all legislative conference rooms.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



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H.B. NO. 1734

Report Title:

Videoconferencing; Legislative Hearings; Audiovisual Technology;
Remote Testimony

Description:

Requires each chamber of the legislature to establish rules that enable oral testimony through audiovisual videoconferencing technology. Appropriates funds for audiovisual technology in conference rooms.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

