

HB-138

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:20:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/9/2023 10:00:00 AM

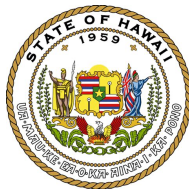
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Foley	Testifying for Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, I support HB 138 that would require a lobbyist training course to be designed and administered by the State Ethics Commission and make the training course mandatory for lobbyists. The Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct found "that more education and training can be done to ensure that lobbyists have notice of the law, understand the application of the law, and comply with legal requirements." Commission December 1, 2022 Final Report at page 29.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: HB 138
Hearing Date/Time: March 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
H.B. 138, Requiring Mandatory Lobbyist Training

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** H.B. 138, which requires mandatory training for all lobbyists who are required to register under the Hawai'i Lobbyists Law, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 97.

Education is one of the core functions of the Commission. In addition to providing ethics training for state elected officials, employees, and members of state boards and commissions, Commission staff conducts annual trainings for registered lobbyists and organizations engaged in lobbying activities at the state level.

This bill would require lobbyists to complete a lobbyists training course prior to registering with the Commission, and repeat the training at least once every two years. Twenty other jurisdictions currently have a similar type of training requirement, including Washington, Oregon, and California.

The measure will help educate organizations and lobbyists about the state lobbyists laws and rules, and ensure greater compliance with the lobbyist registration laws. The Commission strongly believes that a mandatory lobbyist training requirement will help strengthen its overall ability to administer and enforce the state lobbying laws.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 138.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris
Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m. and Conference Room 016
HB138 — Relating to Mandatory Lobbyist Training

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER HB138

This bill mandates regular and on-going training on lobbying laws and ethics code to ensure all lobbyists are aware of current laws. This will allow lobbyists to be held accountable for proper ethical behavior and will increase the public's confidence in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-138

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 12:52:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/9/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Just as members of boards and commissions are required to take courses in the Sunshine Law lobbyists should be required to attend lobbyist training courses. Too often we hear about lobbyists flaunting the law, offering gifts, etc. that are not allowed, and just doing what they want. Almost like Congressman George Santos with all his lies, with a new news story breaking almost daily. The lobbyists should be accountable to the state as their actions can well affect legislation. Please pass this needed bill.

Testimony in Support of HB138

Submitted for: Judiciary Committee Hearing, scheduled for Thursday, 3/9/23 at 10:00 AM.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Misakian and I support HB138.

This is my first year submitting testimony to the Hawaii Legislature for numerous bills, two of which I co-wrote regarding measures which will provide better consumer protections for condominium owners throughout Hawaii (HB178 and HB1501). What I learned along the way is that the process that is currently in place invites unethical and improper behavior, and without protections in place, including oversight, enforcement, and accountability, Hawaii will never be a fair and democratic state.

I thank those that are working to call out unethical and unlawful behavior, and those who provide measures that help make legislators, lobbyists, developers, and others accountable for their actions.