



## HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Bill Number: HB 138  
Hearing Date/Time: March 30, 2023, 10:05 a.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of  
H.B. 138, Requiring Mandatory Lobbyist Training

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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



**LATE**

Committee on Waus and Means  
Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 10:00 a.m. and Conference Room 211  
HB138 — Relating to Mandatory Lobbyist Training

**TESTIMONY**

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.