

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2024 FEB 2 9

RE: H.B. No. 1597 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1597 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OPEN MEETINGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Provide a specific right of action to challenge decisions of the Office of Information Practices relating to the State's open meetings law; and
- Align the enforcement mechanisms for the State's open meetings law with the State's Uniform Information Practices Act.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Information Practices; Society of Professional Journalists Hawaii Chapter; and Public First Law Center.

Your Committee finds that there is not a clear statutory path for a person to challenge the decisions of the Office of Information Practices related to open meetings laws and access to an agency's records. This measure is intended to better align the enforcement mechanisms for the State's open meetings law with the State's Uniform Information Practices Act.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1597, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1597, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

James Camas

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSC2671-24

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: Com	mittee Referral: JHA	Date:	2-23.2	4
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)				
2. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (VC)				
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.				
4. GANADEN, Sonny				
5 HOLT Dowid				
5. HOLT, Daniel				
6. ICHIYAMA, Linda				
7. ILAGAN, Greggor				
7. IDAGAN, Greggor				
8. KONG, Sam Satoru				
9. MIYAKE, Tyson K.				
7. Harring, 1,50m k.				
10. SOUZA, Kanani				
TOTAL (10)	8	_	-	2
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				