

Hawai`i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua`i, Maui, Hawai`i and City & County of Honolulu

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March 14, 2017

TO: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Stacy Crivello
HSAC President

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF March 15, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 478 SD 1, RELATING TO GOVERNMENT RECORDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to amend the Sunshine Law to allow certain government records to be shared among public board members where no commitment relating to a vote on the matter is made or sought.

This measure has the same intent as HB 308, HD 1, which is included in the 2017 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

HSAC **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure would amend HRS Section 92-2.5 to allow board members to distribute certain **public documents** among themselves, so long as the transmittal does not include a commitment to vote or a request for such a commitment.
2. I appreciate helpful amendments made to the bill to clarify the transmittal shall not include additional discussion other than a statement describing the government record and for the record to be filed in the board's office for public inspection.
3. This bill would increase government transparency and efficiency. This measure would put county councilmembers on equal footing with executive branch officials and special-interest groups, who under current law can freely disseminate information and documents to councilmembers and the public.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HSAC:FY2017:17Testimony:SB478_sd1a_mkz