



Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 406, Relating to Copying Fees
Hearing: January 28, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of S.B. 406.

State and county agencies maintain records for the people of Hawai`i. Excessive costs for record requests are an obstacle to any general policy of open government and discourage the public from asking questions about government operations.

Public records are a critical mechanism for ensuring government transparency. By promoting the imposition of *reasonable* costs for public records, this measure protects the public benefit intended by the Legislature in enacting Hawai`i's public records law decades ago.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 406.

