



House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 55 S.D. 1, Relating to Administrative Rules**

Hearing: March 13, 2025 at 2:00 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. 55 S.D. 1.

This measure would help members of the public to better understand and track proposed agency rules by making the full text of proposals available on a centralized website. We commend the Legislature's effort to increase transparency and access in the agency rulemaking process, which will promote more informed public participation.

We also suggest the following amendment at page 2, lines 10 - 12, to better effectuate the intent of this bill.

"Beginning January 1, 2027, [~~all state agencies~~] each agency, through the office of the lieutenant governor, shall make available on the website of the office of the lieutenant governor the full text of the rules of the agency in a digitally accessible. . . ."

Section 91-4(a) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes presently requires county clerks to transmit to the lieutenant governor's office a certified "paper" copy of final county rules. The amendment recommended above conforms that practice to the digital age and would promote greater and more convenient public access to state *and* county rules.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 55 S.D. 1.

