



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony
Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
March 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

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SB 576 SD3 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 576 SD3, which requires reports of official out-of-state and intra-state travel by state employees, officers, or other representatives of state departments or agencies, including the Judiciary and University of Hawai‘i, (UH) to be made available for public review on the Comptroller's website.

As currently written, SB 576 SD3 could benefit from additional clarity.

The bill would require reports of intra-state travel for public viewing; however “intra-state” is not defined in the bill nor could a definition of “intra-state” be found in Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. As an island state, it is unclear if intra-state travel would only refer to air travel between islands, or would it also refer to an automobile mileage reimbursement or other ferry services between islands.

Additionally, the bill specifically states that “any state department or agency, including the Judiciary and the University of Hawaii...” but does not explicitly mention the legislature. Since the bill promotes transparency, all state employees should be included.

The UH is supportive of transparency and accountability, however there is concern in making travel reports available for public viewing and the potential for an employee’s personal information being exposed without proper redaction. Currently, travel reports may include such information as an employee’s home address, personal phone number or mileage program account number.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 576 SD3.