

INTERACTING W THE STATE LEGISLATURE ON THE PORT-OF-ENTRY BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

{Thanks to information from Senator Inouye's and especially from Zoe at Rep. David Tarnas' office}

A comprehensive resource about how to contribute testimony and track bills at the Legislature is available through the Legislature's Public Access room here:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101>

[Find and Track Bills at the Legislature – LRB – Public Access Room \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

[Measure Status \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/hearingnotices/HEARING_WAL_03-15-22_.PDF

[Tips on Testimony – LRB – Public Access Room \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Written Testimony

Here are some tips on preparing written testimony:

- Include the essentials: the bill number, the bill's title, your name
- Address the committee chair and members
- Clearly state whether you support or oppose the bill
- Introduce yourself and the group or organization (if any) you represent
- Summarize the reason for your position
 - Provide factual accounts of the impact the legislation will have
 - Tell a personal story
- Restate your position and provide a recommendation for action
- Thank the committee for the opportunity to testify
- Keep it short

Oral Testimony

If you're planning on giving testimony in person, here are some simple guidelines to follow:

- Address your testimony to the "Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee"
- Keep your testimony short and simple (2-3 minutes)
 - Focus on your message and remember to breathe!
 - Introduce yourself and the group or organization (if any) you represent
 - Clearly state your position at the very beginning – In support? Opposed? Alternatives?
 - Use a friendly, relaxed tone of voice
 - Avoid giving a monologue or a formal speech. Be conversational. Do not read to the committee.
 - Provide accurate facts or data to support your arguments
 - Personal stories demonstrating your position can be powerful
 - Be courteous, respectful, and professional
 - Tell the truth and don't exaggerate
 - Thank the committee for the opportunity to testify
- Anticipate questions you might be asked and practice answering them