



With COVID-19 restrictions limiting group gatherings, legislative agencies have had to shift the way they engage the public to participate in the democratic process. The Hawai'i State Legislature and Honolulu City Council continue to accept written testimony on bills or resolutions scheduled for public hearings and have moved in-person testimony to virtual spaces. This new format will hopefully encourage greater access for everyone who wants to be an active participant in the legislative process.

The O'ahu County Democrats Legislation Committee is happy to present these quick guides on the current practices to participate in federal, state, and local government.

For more information on submitting testimony in the Senate and House of Representatives, visit the [Legislative Reference Bureau Public Access Room website](#) for extensive tutorials or the [Legislature's remote testimony guide](#). Additional instructions on testifying at the Honolulu City Council is listed at the top of each public agenda and the [City Council website](#).

HOW TO COMMENT ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Contact your senator or congressional representative directly to share your support or opposition on federal bills and resolutions.

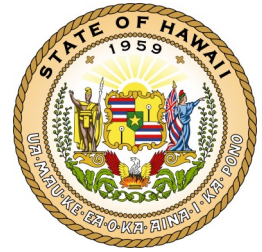
Contact Sen. Mazie K. Hirono

Contact Rep. Ed Case

Contact Sen. Brian Schatz

Contact Rep. Kaiali`i Kahele

HOW TO TESTIFY AT THE HAWAI`I STATE LEGISLATURE



1. Create an Account

To submit testimony and participate in public hearings you will need to register for a free account on the Legislature's website.

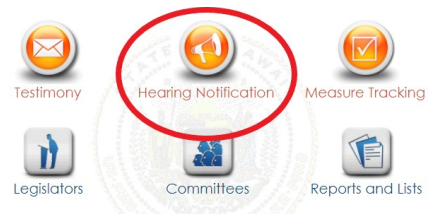
[Click to Create an Account](#)

2. Monitor Hearing Notices

Using your online account, subscribe to hearing notices to get emails when a bill is scheduled for a public hearing.

In the House, notices are filed 48 hours before a hearing. In the Senate, notices are filed 72 hours before a hearing.

Tip: * Subscribing to specific bills gives notifications only on those measures. Subscribing to committees gives notifications on all bills in the subject of the committee.



3. Submit Written Testimony

Using your online account, fill out the Testimony form by uploading a document or typing your comments into the provided box.

Written testimony is provided to all of the committee members ahead of the public hearing.



4. Submit Oral Testimony

Indicate you will be attending the hearing in the Testimony form. A Zoom link will be provided in the online dashboard 3 hours before the start of the hearing.

Tips: * Register 24 hours before Senate hearings or contact the committee. The House strongly suggests registering 24 hours before hearings.
* Zoom login name must match registered name.
* Testifiers speak on each bill in order listed on the agenda.

Your Testimony

■	- Not yet submitted.
■	- Successfully submitted.
	Support
	Oppose
	Comments
Measure	Hearing
SB20	HEARING HMS 01-23-17
	Room: 016 9:00 PM
	View
	Zoom Requested
SB28	HEARING HMS 01-23-17
	Room: 016 9:00 PM
	View
HB707	HEARING LAB 01-31-17
	Room: 309 8:00 AM
	Edit

5. Watch the Hearing

All hearings will be live streamed on House and Senate YouTube sites. If the hearing will also be aired on Olelo, details will be given on the notice.

Completed hearings will be on YouTube and the Legislature's website.

[Click for Senate YouTube Site](#)

[Click for House YouTube Site](#)

HOW TO TESTIFY AT THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL



1. Monitor Agendas

Track agendas for a bill or resolution to be scheduled for a council or council committee meeting.

Agendas are posted 6 days prior to a meetings and are available via the City Council website or email subscription.

[Click for City Council Website](#)

[Click for Email Subscription](#)

2. Submit Written Testimony

Submit a written copy of your testimony via the online testimony form or fax it to (808) 768-3827.

Written testimony is provided to all of the councilmembers ahead of the meeting to review.

[Click for Testimony Form](#)

Tip: * Oral testimony is limited to 1 minute per agenda item so consider submitting written testimony to share your detailed comments.

3. Submit Oral Testimony

Register to speak on the WebEx website by entering the unique meeting number listed on the agenda under "Oral Testimony." You will receive instructions on how to join by video conference or phone via email.

On the day of the meeting, join with the WebEx link or phone number.

[Click for WebEx Registration](#)

Tips: * Register at least 24-hours in advance to ensure your request is processed.
* Council meetings take testimony for all bills at the beginning of the agenda.

4. Watch the Meeting

Currently no one can watch meetings in-person. However, live meetings are aired on Olelo 54 as well as streamed online at the City Council and Olelo's websites.

Completed meetings can be viewed on the City Council website.

[Click to Watch on Council Site](#)

[Click to Watch on Olelo 54](#)

[Click to Watch Past Meetings](#)