

THE CIVIL BEAT
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House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 532, Relating to Government Data
Hearing: February 6, 2019 at 10:10 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization whose primary mission concerns solutions that promote governmental transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **strongly supporting H.B. 532.**

Progress toward more efficient and publicly accessible government requires personnel focused exclusively on government data. Open and transparent government data cannot be an afterthought or it will never happen. A chief data officer and data task force would be well-situated to ensure that Hawai'i has the appropriate infrastructure and policies to carry the State into a new era of more efficient, open, and data-driven government.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of H.B. 532.