

THE CIVIL BEAT
LAW CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

700 Bishop Street, Suite 1701
Honolulu, HI 96813

Office: (808) 531-4000
Fax: (808) 380-3580
info@civilbeatlawcenter.org

House Committee on Finance
Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony Commenting on S.B. 1226 S.D. 2, Relating to Child Care
Hearing: March 27, 2019 at 2:30 p.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 **comments** regarding **S.B. 1226 S.D. 2**.

The Law Center raises a concern about section three of the bill. The proposed amendment would delay public access to complaints about child care facilities for an indeterminate time while DHS conducts an investigation. Existing law already protects complainant privacy and allows the DHS Director to withhold information if it would interfere with a criminal investigation. So it is unclear what public policy is served by denying public access to complaints for a prolonged period.

Parents, guardians, and other members of the public considering options among child care facilities should know whether complaints have been filed against that facility. If unaware of complaints, individuals may place a child in a DHS-licensed facility only to learn later that the child was exposed to potential risk because DHS was still investigating the complaints.

In the companion bill H.B. 1000, the House Committee on Judiciary addressed this concern through appropriate amendments to Section 3. But that committee provided only same day, limited notice of its hearing for this bill. Please consider adopting the amendments made to Section 3 in H.B. 1000 H.D. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 1226 S.D. 2.