

THE CIVIL BEAT
LAW CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 678, Relating to Legislative Provisions
Hearing: January 31, 2019 at 2:45 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 testimony **supporting S.B. 678**.

The Law Center supports all efforts to make the legislative process more accessible to the public.¹

Please consider the anticipated consequences for violations. The intent is not clear from the current bill.

Because it concerns documents, we would recommend moving the provision regarding “testimony” to be a new subparagraph of HRS § 92F-12(a). To the extent that the Committee intends for all bill-related committee correspondence to be public record, that intent would be best served by amending section 92F-12(a), which identifies some categories of government records that must be disclosed to the public.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of S.B. 678.

¹ As it concerns the issue of “germane” amendments, the Law Center notes that currently pending litigation raises the question whether there is a *constitutional* requirement that bill amendments be germane to the original subject of a measure.