



House Committee on Finance
Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 353 S.D. 2 H.D. 2, Relating to Emergency Management
Hearing: April 1, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 353 S.D. 2 H.D. 2.

Public records laws are a critical mechanism to ensure government transparency. This bill would safeguard that promise of openness for the public during government-declared emergencies, when transparency is especially crucial.

Government transparency holds government accountable for its actions and decisions. It also helps government address the misinformation that can proliferate in times of crisis and erode the public's trust in government. Transparency builds trust by providing clarity about a given situation and the steps being taken to address it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 353 S.D. 2 H.D. 2.

