



January 22, 2026

Dawn Szewczyk, Chair  
Honolulu Charter Commission

**Re: Testimony on Proposal \*P005 (Concerning Access to Government Records)**

My name is Dévi Chung. I am a legal fellow 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 proposal \*P005, concerning access to government records. This proposal's language is identical to \*P015.

As provided by the current Charter, City records are open to the public, and such searches are subject to reasonable search fees. However, gaining access to such records is often less than straightforward and, at times, unreasonably costly. This proposal fixes that. It establishes that facilitating public access to records is not merely an administrative chore, but a core governmental duty that should be constitutionally protected.

Given that Maui County successfully adopted an identical proposal in 2022, the City should provide its residents with the same level of consideration that Maui County offers theirs.

We respectfully urge the Charter Commission to advance this proposal and look forward to submitting more substantive testimony as it moves through the process.