



February 5, 2026

Dawn Szewczyk, Chair
Honolulu Charter Commission

Re: Testimony on Proposal *P014 (Preventing Single-Party Control of Commissions)

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 *P014.

The City is non-partisan. But the Charter permits one party to hold a majority for the reapportionment commission and the civil service commission. This proposal ensures that no party can hold a majority in either commission. Thus, it makes room for minor parties and individuals with no party affiliation.

More diverse views provide the government the momentum it needs to grow and improve. When one party holds a majority, collaboration and thoughtful consideration of other views may not happen.

This is a simple but important reform consistent with the City's commitment in the Charter to non-partisan government.

We respectfully urge the Charter Commission to move proposal *P014 forward for further discussion.

