



January 22, 2026

Dawn Szewczyk, Chair  
Honolulu Charter Commission

**Testimony on Proposal P023 (Concerning Acceptance of Electronic Signatures)**

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 P023, concerning the acceptance of electronic signatures.

The City needs to step into the 21st Century. This proposal requires City agencies to adopt standards for electronic signatures. As outlined in the proposal, there are extensive benefits to implementing electronic signatures, including faster and more reliable City services, more trustworthy identity verification, and phasing out subjective wet-ink comparisons.

A proposal of this nature should not be necessary. City agencies should embrace technology that has existed for decades. Federal and state law have permitted e-signatures since 2000. Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, Pub. L. No. 106-229; Hawai`i Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, 2000 Haw. Sess. Laws Act 282.

But this proposal is necessary at the Charter level because the City stubbornly refuses to modernize – fighting e-signatures all the way to the Hawai`i Supreme Court. *Yoshimura v. Kaneshiro*, 149 Hawai`i 21, 481 P.3d 28 (2021). Change will not happen in the ordinary course.

We respectfully urge the Commission to move this proposal forward for further discussion.