



February 5, 2026

Dawn Szewczyk, Chair  
Honolulu Charter Commission

**Re: 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.

Public First acknowledges that this proposal is not *legally* necessary. The City has the authority to set standards for electronic signatures. The problem is that the City refuses to move into the 21st Century.

This proposal is *practically* necessary because the City – across multiple administrations and several decades – refuses to modernize. The City has resisted and continues to resist the acceptance of electronic signatures. *Yoshimura v. Kaneshiro*, 149 Hawai'i 21, 481 P.3d 28 (2021). We should not need to ask for this change.

A proposed Charter amendment would allow the electorate to decide whether it wants the City to modernize. The technology exists. The legal framework exists. The benefits for the public are obvious. There is no reason the City should lag decades behind technology.

We respectfully urge the Commission to move this proposal forward for further discussion. At a minimum, unless it thinks that the electorate prefers only wet-ink signatures, the Commission should get commitments from the Administration on this issue. If the City can do this without a Charter amendment (it undoubtedly can), then have the City commit to do so.