



Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 3015, Relating to Personal Information
Hearing: February 5, 2026 at 3:01 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 respectfully submit testimony in **opposition** to S.B. 3015.

In 2024, the Legislature passed Act 187, which created Hawai'i Revised Statutes chapter 92H. Act 187 was the result of input from numerous competing interests. The final product represented a compromise that furthered the intent of protecting the personal information of judges and other high-level government employees, while preserving the public's right to access government records. S.B. 3015, however, upends that careful balance.

We strongly support the intent to protect personal information from being used to harass or threaten individuals. This protection, however, should not be limited to just government officials, as proposed here. It should be afforded to everyone.

The new substantive provisions, however, are unnecessary to protect personal information. Existing law already provides robust public records exemptions that address the intent of S.B. 3015 to protect home addresses. *E.g.*, HRS § 92F-13; HRS § 92F-14(b)(10); OIP Op. No 07-07 (DLNR may withhold home addresses); OIP Op. No. 04-04 (county clerk may withhold home addresses of voter petition signatories); OIP 99-02 (county police may withhold home addresses in police report). Protected personal information is not being disclosed through public record disclosures. *E.g.*, https://techpolicy.sanford.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/07/Sherman-Justin_WrittenTestimony_MA_Legislature.pdf (highlighting role of data brokers who scrape personal information from mobile apps and credit applications, as well as other commercially available people search services).

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. 3015.

