



SCR 192 Working Group to Develop Recommendations
for the Treatment of Deliberative and Pre-decisional Agency Records
Judge (retired) Karl Sakamoto, Facilitator

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, noon
Held Online Via Zoom

TESTIMONY

Donna Oba, President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Aloha Judge Sakamoto and SCR 192 Working Group Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports government transparency and accountability and informed public involvement in government.

Timely disclosure of relevant government records is necessary for meaningful public participation prior to government decisions. State law should continue to allow public disclosure of any deliberative or pre-decisional government record distributed or discussed at any government meeting or hearing that the public has the right to attend.

Government agencies should not selectively decide which members of the public can participate in government decisions. State law should continue to allow public disclosure of any deliberative or pre-decisional government record that was previously disclosed to any member of the public.

The public wants to understand why government decisions were made, or learn if government decisions were capricious. State law should continue to allow public disclosure of deliberative or pre-decisional government records relevant to government decisions.

People responsible for government decisions should not be totally unaccountable. When a deliberative or pre-decisional government record is publicly disclosed after a government decision has been made, State law should not allow redaction of the names of public officials and employees who participated in or who had "discretionary authority" for that decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.