

PROPOSAL TO ALLOW OIP TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN LIEU OF OPINIONS

As part of the recommendations to the Legislature, OIP respectfully requests that the SCR 192 Working Group support the attached draft legislation, which would enable OIP to more efficiently and timely administer the UIPA and Sunshine Law.

During the 2022 legislative session, the House passed HB 2037, HD 2. The Senate Government Operations Committee subsequently passed HB 2037, HD 2, SD 1, incorporating the amendments jointly proposed by OIP and the League of Women Voters. Unfortunately, however, the bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

With a revised effective date of January 1, 2024, OIP continues to support amendments in HB 2037, HD 2, SD 1, which will save time and give OIP the much-needed flexibility to not be required to issue an opinion where it has already issued written guidance to a complainant. OIP's reasons for supporting the bill are provided in its attached testimony on to the Senate Committee on Government Operations on March 15, 2022, and a draft bill based on HB 2037, HD 2, SD 1 with a new effective date is also attached.

OIP would appreciate this Working Group's support and inclusion of the attached draft bill in its final recommendations to the Legislature.