

RULE NO. 13

PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND TESTIMONY

1. Written Testimony. Written testimonies shall be received for the record on any agenda item. If possible, fourteen (14) written copies of the testimony should be submitted for presentation to the Council or Committee by 12 noon the previous business day of the meeting(s). Testimonies received after 12 noon shall still be received for the record and will be presented to the Council or Committee members as soon as practicable.
2. Video Testimony. Prerecorded video testimonies shall be received for the record on any agenda item and should be submitted for presentation to the Council or Committee by 12 noon the previous business day of the meeting(s). Testimonies received after 12 noon shall still be received for the record and will be presented to the Council or Committee members as soon as practicable.
3. Oral Testimony. Oral statements from any member of the public shall abide by the following:
 - (a) Pursuant to Chapter 92, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, any person wishing to present oral testimony on any agenda item may do so consistent with this rule.
 - (b) Persons wishing to present oral testimony relating to any agenda item shall register with the Clerk prior to the closing of statements from the public at the call of the Chairperson, indicating the item on which they wish to speak and their position, if any. Persons may provide their name, address, and organization they represent, if any.
 - (c) Persons sharing the same or similar points of view may testify as a group with one spokesperson who shall list the names of all persons in the group in attendance and may state their home community or district, and that listing of names shall not be considered as part of the time allotted for public testimony.
 - (d) During public testimony, Council members may ask the testifier a specific question, as opposed to making any comment of approval or disapproval or otherwise, and may request submission of specified additional information.

- (e) Each person may speak for three minutes subject to the discretion of the Chairperson.
- (f) Each person must speak at the time of calling, unless the Chairperson determines otherwise.
- (g) No person will be allowed to speak twice on the same subject.
- (h) Any person wishing to speak on more than one subject shall register separately for each agenda item.
- (i) Those speaking shall direct their remarks to the Chairperson and not to any individual Council Member or person in the audience.
- (j) All members of the public shall extend proper courtesy and respect to one another and to all Council Members, and all persons shall be addressed by their surnames. No profanity or abusive remarks will be allowed at any time in any meeting.
- (k) Any person, not a member of Council, who is disrespectful to the Council or any Committee by any disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its presence or who disrupts the exercise of any legislator's function, may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- (l) Any person who does not abide by these rules may be ruled out of order by the Chairperson.

4. Nothing in this rule shall diminish the responsibility or the authority of the Chairperson to maintain order and decorum.

5. Council Members shall refrain from making comments or asking questions of testifiers during statements from the public. All deliberation and discussion on an agenda item must take place after the item has been read into the record and a motion is pending on the floor. A Council Member may, however, request that a person presenting public testimony on an agenda item be available for questions during subsequent discussion.