

TO: REPRESENTATIVE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE MARILYN B. LEE, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER KIRK CALDWELL

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2688**, MAKING
APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN

I support House Bill No. 2688, but suggest one amendment.

The amendment is to add an appropriation of \$300,000 to the Legislature Reference Bureau's budget for a comprehensive study of the environmental review process in Hawaii, with a directive for the Bureau to contract with the University of Hawaii to conduct the review. The comprehensive study proposal is part of the joint House-Senate majority package set forth in House Bill No. 2510.

At present, H.B. No. 2510 includes the \$300,000 appropriation and designates the Auditor's Office as the expending agency. The justification for the comprehensive study of the environmental review process is expressed very well in H.B. No. 2510, and I will not repeat it.

The House and Senate leadership, however, prefer including the funds for the comprehensive study in H.B. No. 2688, the legislative budget bill. Doing so will protect the funds from gubernatorial veto.

The House and Senate leadership also prefer designating the Legislative Reference Bureau as the contracting and expending agency for the appropriation. Conferring the duty upon the Bureau will spread the burden of assisting in legislative studies. The Auditor's Office

recently has been charged with serving the Sustainability 2050 Task Force, Joint Committee on the Bureau of Conveyances, and Identify Theft Task Force.

Attached is the suggested language for the amendment.

If the Committee approves the amendment, I will suggest that the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee making conforming amendments to H.B. No. 2510.

ATTACHMENT A

SUGGESTED AMENDATORY LANGUAGE

SECTION __. Notwithstanding chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislative reference bureau shall contract with the University of Hawaii to conduct a study of the State's environmental review process. The study shall:

- (1) Examine the effectiveness of the current environmental review system created by chapters 341, 343, and 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (2) Assess the unique environmental, economic, social, and cultural issues in Hawaii that should be incorporated into an environmental review system;
- (3) Address larger concerns and interests related to sustainable development, global environmental change, and disaster risk reduction; and
- (4) Develop a strategy, including legislative recommendations, for modernizing Hawaii's environmental review system so that it meets international and national best practices standards.

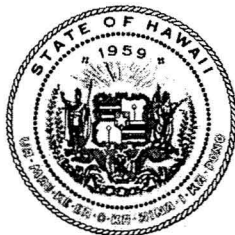
Additionally, the study shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of any other act that addresses the comprehensive study of the environmental review process described in this section.

The study shall be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2010 or by an earlier date expressly set by any other relevant Act.

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-09, for the legislative reference bureau to contract with the University of Hawaii to conduct the study required by this section.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative reference bureau for the purpose of this section.

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR
465 S. King Street, Room 500
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MARION M. HIGA
State Auditor

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**TESTIMONY OF MARION M. HIGA, STATE AUDITOR,
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2688, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE
EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN**

House Committee on Finance

January 24, 2008

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

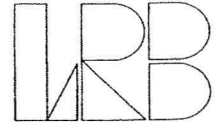
Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2688.

We would like to affirm the budget request we presented at the January 7 briefing of the Committee.

We look forward to carrying out our responsibilities with your generous support of our efforts.

Ken H. Takayama
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Testimony Only

HB2688

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, AND
THE OMBUDSMAN**

**Presented to the House Committee on Finance
Twenty-fourth State Legislature, Regular Session of 2008
By Ken H. Takayama, Acting Director
Legislative Reference Bureau
Thursday, January 24, 2008**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

I am Ken H. Takayama, Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2688, which appropriates funds for the legislative branch of the state government.

Section 9 of the measure appropriates \$3,449,623 for the operations of the Bureau during fiscal year 2008-2009. I believe this amount will be adequate to enable the Bureau to carry out our duties and responsibilities in the coming year. I understand that this amount also includes approximately \$85,000 which the Bureau will be directed to pay to the Council of State Governments (CSG) to cover the State's dues.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify. I am open to questions from yourself and any of the members and members of the committee.



Robin K. Matsunaga
Ombudsman

David T. Tomatani
First Assistant

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STATE OF HAWAII**

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**TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,
ON H.B. NO. 2688, A BILL FOR AN ACT
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF
THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
JANUARY 24, 2008**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 2688, A Bill for an Act Making Appropriations to Provide for the Expenses of the Legislature, the Auditor, the Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Ombudsman.

The Office of the Ombudsman is in strong support of H.B. No. 2688, which appropriates \$1,060,728 to defray the expenses of the Office in fiscal year 2008-2009. This appropriation reflects the budget requested in my presentation to this committee during the informational briefing on January 7, 2008, and will enable the Office of the Ombudsman to continue its work in serving the people of Hawaii in fiscal year 2008-2009.

Your favorable consideration of this bill would be greatly appreciated. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

BILL NO: H.B. 2688, Making Appropriations to Provide for the Expenses of the Legislature, The Auditor, The Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Ombudsman

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

TESTIFYING: Daniel J. Mollway
Executive Director and General Counsel
Hawaii State Ethics Commission

VIA: Ms. Marion Higa, Legislative Auditor

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

ROOM: State Capitol, Conference Room 308

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair; The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair; and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on H.B. No. 2688.

The Section of H.B. No. 2688 relevant to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission is Section 6(2). The Hawaii State Ethics Commission strongly supports Section 6(2) of this bill in providing \$885,292 for the budget of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission for FY 2008-2009.

As this Committee knows, the Hawaii State Ethics Commission presented testimony before this Committee regarding its budget request for FY 2008-2009 on January 7, 2008. At this time, we have nothing further to add to our testimony presented on January 7, 2008, and thus stand on our testimony presented on that date, and incorporated herein by reference.

We would like to thank the House Committee on Finance for its support in the past, and for this opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to respond to any questions Committee Members may have at this time.