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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HB2688, HD1

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

**Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-fourth State Legislature, Regular Session of 2008
By Ken H. Takayama, Acting Director
Legislative Reference Bureau
Thursday, January 31, 2008**

Chair Baker 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, H.D. 1, 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.

Section 10 of the measure directs the Bureau to contract with the University of Hawaii for a study on the State's environmental review process. Having the option to contract with the University of Hawaii through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) may help to expedite matters. For this reason, a statement in the committee report clarifying the acceptability of using this alternative would be beneficial.

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.

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, H.D. 1, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR
THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

January 31, 2008

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill No. 2688, H.D. 1.

The bill provides for our office as we requested at the January 3 briefing of the Committee.

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



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, H.D. 1, Making Appropriations to Provide for the Expenses of the Legislature, The Auditor, The Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Ombudsman

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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 31, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

ROOM: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair; and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on H.B. No. 2688, H.D. 1.

The Section of H.B. No. 2688, H.D. 1, 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 3, 2008. At this time, we have nothing further to add to our testimony presented on January 3, 2008, and thus stand on our testimony presented on that date, and incorporated herein by reference.

We would like to thank the Senate Committee on Ways and Means 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.

JAN 29 2008