

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

BARBARA A. ANNIS
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119**

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION
AND
TOURISM AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
February 26, 2008

S.B. 2434

RELATING TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY

Chairs Fukunaga, Nishihara, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2434.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes S.B. 2434 because it is unnecessary. Changing the way the nine members of the Stadium Authority are appointed, as the bill proposes, would serve no useful purpose. The bill does change the selection criteria or qualifications for Authority members, and does not provide the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives with any basis for nominating better candidates than the Governor.

The bill proposes to have three Authority members appointed directly by the Governor, three from lists submitted by the President of the Senate, and three from lists submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. However, because the first, third and fifth vacancies after the bill would go into effect would be appointed by the

Governor from lists provided by the President of the Senate and the second, fourth and sixth would be appointed from lists provided by the Speaker of the House, first six appointees would be based on nominations not submitted by the Governor. The bill would also set in motion a cycle in which two thirds of the Authority's members will be determined by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives before the Governor could directly appoint the Governor's one third of the members.

Besides being unnecessary, this bill will introduce delays in filling vacancies when the legislature is not in session for any vacancies in the first two thirds of the cycle. There is no value to this delay, as the Governor is just as capable of nominating candidates as are the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House.

In summary, this bill is unnecessary and makes no provision for improving the existing process for nominating and appointing members of the Aloha Stadium Authority. In addition, all appointments of the Governor are with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.