

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 COMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ON
February 8, 2008

S.B. 2958

RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES FOR MOBILE PHONES

Chair Kokubun, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2958.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) strongly supports S.B. 2958.

Currently, wireless enhanced 911 service is available through all carriers on all islands except for the island of Molokai which has one wireless carrier remaining to be implemented. With the installation of wireless enhanced service essentially completed, the Board is estimating that its recurring costs will be approximately \$5 million annually which would be covered by the projected revenue from the revised lower monthly assessment rate of \$0.43.

The wireless enhanced 911 Board (Board) is now in the planning stages of a project to expand wireless enhanced 911 coverage statewide into remote areas and public buildings with limited wireless coverage (such as the basement in the State Capitol) by

building cell towers or placing antennas in these locations. This project is expected to use a substantial portion of the \$20 million balance currently in the enhanced wireless 911 fund. DAGS recommends that the Board be authorized to complete the project so that the original intent of the Act can be more fully achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.