

LINDA LINGLE
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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
TOURISM AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
February 5, 2008

S.B. 3064

RELATING TO SALARIES

Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 3064. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) fully supports this bill's proposal to pay the Aloha Stadium manager a salary that is commensurate with the position's responsibilities.

The Stadium Manager is responsible for operations of the State's largest venue for sports and special events. For Hawaii citizens, the Stadium is the premier venue for sports and special events. For people who watch events at the Stadium through broadcast television it is the window into Hawaii that promotes the State as a place to visit. Creating the enjoyable experience that people expect from the Stadium requires effective management of over 40 full-time staff, over 600 part-time workers, vendors, and contract service providers. This challenge is amplified by the continual need to better market the Stadium to increase revenues and cover the cost to operate and maintain the Stadium to make it the safe and enjoyable venue that fans, visitors and tenants deserve.

The responsibilities of the Stadium Manager, who administratively reports to the Comptroller, justify a salary for the manager in a range equivalent to 92% of the Director of Health's salary.

DAGS recommends that this bill be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.