



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII STATE SENATE

to the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

H.B. No. 302

Making Appropriations to Provide for the Expenses of the Legislature,
the Auditor, the Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Ombudsman

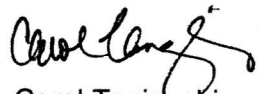
February 2, 2009
2:00 pm

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the leadership and members of the Hawaii State Senate, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. No. 302.

The Senate's 2009 operating budget request is \$7,125,681 and we respectfully recommend that section 1 of the bill be amended to reflect this amount. Due in large part to the Senate's paperless initiative, significant savings have been realized through the reduction and redistribution of work activities of temporary session employees, and reduction of the Senate Document Center copier leasing costs, paper purchases, and other supplies. In addition, the Senate has restricted out-of-state travel by Senators and staff, reduced funds for training and professional development, and deferred major purchases and staff salary increases, resulting in a 17.6% reduction in the Senate's discretionary budget.

The Senate appreciates the opportunity to testify on this measure and asks the Committee for its favorable consideration.


Carol Taniguchi
Senate Clerk

**TESTIMONY OF MARION M. HIGA, STATE AUDITOR, ON HOUSE BILL NO. 302,
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, AND
THE OMBUDSMAN**

House Committee on Finance

February 2, 2009

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill but to reiterate our ability to absorb a 10 percent reduction from our current appropriation to \$2,619,684, as I testified at your budget briefing on January 6, 2009. We recognize the fiscal constraints the State faces and will expend funds only as absolutely necessary to carry out our constitutional and statutory mission.

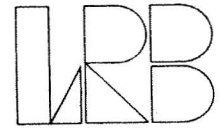
I would ask for your consideration of two adjustments that I testified to at your January 6, 2009 budget briefing. The first is an amendment to Act 1, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, the current legislative appropriations act, to lift the FY2008-09 Audit Revolving Fund expenditure ceiling to \$6,300,000 to accommodate the delays in contract execution we encountered last spring for a few FY2007-08 financial statement audits. The delays were caused by various glitches in the executive branch agencies, such as the non-closure of the prior years' books. The raising of the revolving fund's expenditure ceiling will NOT require additional funding—the funds have already been appropriated but were not spent last fiscal year because the contracts could not be executed before June 30, 2008. If this amendment is made, then a second adjustment would need to be made, to Section 8 of H.B. 302, which sets the expenditure ceiling for FY2009-10, to the same \$6,300,000, as a precaution in the event similar delays occur this spring.

I am available for your questions.

Ken H. Takayama
Director

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HB302
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES
OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR
THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Director

Presented to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 2, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

I am Ken. H. Takayama, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 302, which appropriates funds for the legislative branch of state government. Section 9 of that measure appropriates the funding for the Bureau for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Late last year, we were asked to try to reduce our budget by ten per cent from last year's appropriation. Accordingly, our budget for this year would be \$3,113,126, which includes \$85,000 (the amount included in our 2008-2009 budget) to cover the State's dues for the Council of State Governments, which the Bureau is directed to pay on behalf of the State each year. I believe this amount will be adequate to enable the Bureau to carry out our duties and responsibilities in the coming year.

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



Robin K. Matsunaga
Ombudsman

David T. Tomatani
First Assistant

**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
STATE OF HAWAII**

465 South King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 587-0770 Fax: (808) 587-0773 TTY: (808) 587-0774
complaints@ombudsman.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,
ON H.B. NO. 302, 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
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 302, 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. 302, which appropriates \$1,060,728 to defray the expenses of the Office in fiscal year 2009-2010. This appropriation reflects the budget requested in my presentation to this committee during the informational briefing on January 6, 2009, and will enable the Office of the Ombudsman to continue its work in serving the people of Hawaii in fiscal year 2009-2010.

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. 302, 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: Monday, February 2, 2009

TIME: 2:00 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. 302.

The Section of H.B. No. 302 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 2009-2010.

As this Committee knows, the Hawaii State Ethics Commission presented testimony before this Committee regarding its budget request for FY 2009-2010 on January 6, 2009. At this time, we have nothing further to add to our testimony presented on January 6, 2009, 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.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB302 on 2/2/2009 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/2/2009 2:00:00 PM HB302

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid T. Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association
Address: P O Box 37542 Honolulu, HI 96837
Phone: 808-540-1910
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Chair Marcus R. Oshiro
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee
Honorable Members of the House
Finance Committee

Happy Belated Chinese Lunar New Year!

Congratulations on your election, re-election, & foremost, appointment to the House Finance Committee.

Please let me support HB 302 which is to fund the Legislature, the Reference Bureau, the Auditor, and the Public Access Room. Thank you all for the hard work that you do and the harder work yet to come. Best of luck.