



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Testimony of
Linda L. Smith
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Thursday, February 12, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Room 016, State Capitol

**S.B. 1670 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 6, OF THE
HAWAII CONSTITUTION, TO CLARIFY THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT
PROCESS**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and members of the Committee:

The Office of the Governor **opposes** S.B. 1670. This bill would amend the State Constitution to change the appointment process for department heads and members of boards and commissions by requiring the Governor to nominate successors within an as yet to be determined time limit required by law.

This measure unnecessarily limits the Governor's appointment power. This is simply another bill in a long line of measures attempting to thwart the ability of this Governor to manage the Executive Branch.

The measure provides that the Governor must nominate a successor "within the time limit required by law". A statutory time limit could be unreasonably short and could hinder the selection of qualified candidates by the Governor and would be detrimental to good government operations. The Office of the Governor must oppose S.B. 1670.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:26 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: pearl@grassrootinstitute.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1670 on 2/12/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/12/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1670

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pearl Hahn
Organization: Individual
Address: 1314 S. King Street #1163 Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 9086425832
E-mail: pearl@grassrootinstitute.org
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

The Grassroot Institute respectfully opposes this bill primarily over concerns with the current \$1.8 billion budget shortfall. Lawmakers, not citizens, are responsible for state spending which has increased the financial burden on everyone. Allowing the legislature to appropriate money from the emergency budget and reserve fund to maintain current levels of programs for education, human services, and health is irresponsible and goes against the purpose of the emergency budget and reserve fund. An emergency budget and reserve fund should be used for just that- emergencies. Allowing these funds to be spent at the legislators' whim hardly encourages fiscally conservative decisions. This is an opportune time to prioritize certain programs and cut others that are superfluous.