



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
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TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON
March 16, 2009
S.B. 382, S.D. 1

RELATING TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY

Chair Manahan and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 382, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes this bill because it is unnecessary. The bill proposes to change the way Stadium Authority (Authority) members are appointed without changing any of the qualifications or selection criteria. This will not improve the quality of selections over the current method, which works well. In addition, if this bill passes, the Authority members would be appointed from a combination of lists submitted by the Senate President and Speaker of the House, and directly by the Governor. The selection from the list submitted by the Senate President will be for the first, third, and fifth vacancies, and the selection from the lists submitted by the Speaker of the House will be the second, fourth and sixth vacancies. This may result in the Governor not directly appointing Authority members

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until the end of the Governor's term, or perhaps not even that. Further, this fractionalized selection process may produce candidates that do not represent the cross section of business and civic backgrounds needed to complement each other and make the Authority more effective in its deliberations. This appears to be change without any advantages, and in fact disadvantages over the current method. DAGS recommends that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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