



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
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TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY
ON
January 28, 2010

H.B. 2274

RELATING TO WIRELESS ENHANCED 911 SERVICE

Chair Hanohano, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2274.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes H.B. 2274.

We oppose this bill because the audit by an independent third party to include a survey of the status of and available funding for any projects that have been undertaken or planned during the previous year by public safety answering points will create an undue burden in two areas. First, the cost of the Wireless Enhanced 911 fund will increase because the audit scope will expand beyond the normal financial scope. This will encompass additional audit hours. Secondly, because the auditors or independent third party will render an opinion on the accuracy of the survey, time will need to be spent with the public safety answering points to ascertain the validity of the survey and

other project data. With the talk of furloughs even at the Honolulu Police Department, this audit time will be a burden for the public safety answering points.

We support the intent of the bill which is to provide timely and accurate information annually to the legislature on the status of the projects undertaken and to determine the availability of funding for them. An alternative method for achieving this bill's intent is to amend the bill to remove the requirement that the data be audited by an independent third party and to, instead, allow the Wireless Enhanced 911 Board to report this information as part of its annual report.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.