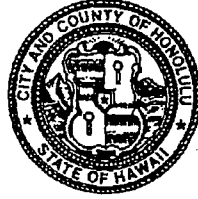


SB 655

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FISCAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT DIVISION
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PETER B. CARLISLE
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MICHAEL R. HANSEN
DIRECTOR

GARY T. KUROKAWA
ADMINISTRATOR

February 28, 2011

Honorable David Ige,
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Proposed SB655 - Relating to Conveyance Tax

The City and County of Honolulu supports SB655, which requires the director of taxation to provide the real property assessment division of each county with an image of all certificates of conveyance filed with the Bureau of Conveyances.

The current method, whereby the city makes weekly pickups of the printed certificates from the Department of Taxation, is not efficient and would be greatly improved with electronic data transfers of the conveyance certificates filed with the Bureau of Conveyances. Additionally, the Department of Taxation would no longer need to provide printed copies of these certificates for the counties. Since the Department of Taxation has already implemented scanning of these documents, it would be extremely beneficial for the counties to receive digital copies of these conveyance records. These documents contain information that would enable the counties to promptly track recorded ownership, encumbrances, restrictions, uses, and sales prices of real property for the purpose of determining real property tax assessments.

Your consideration and approval of this bill is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary T. Kurokawa".

Gary T. Kurokawa
Administrator
Real Property Assessment Division