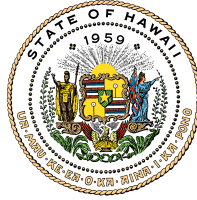


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY OF  
SANJEEV "SONNY" BHAGOWALIA, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 21, 2013  
4:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

H.B. 358, H.D. 1

RELATING TO VIDEOCONFERENCING

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Kawakami and Johanson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 358, H.D. 1.

The Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT) applauds the efforts of the legislature to embrace technology in order to encourage and engage neighbor island residents in the legislative process and therefore strongly supports the intent H.B. 358, H.D. 1. OIMT provides the following comments for consideration.

As identified in the Business and Information Technology/Information Resource Management (IT/IRM) Transformation Plan, OIMT will also be using technology to increase and encourage citizen participation with State government. It is OIMT's understanding that pilot videoconferencing projects are being conducted with select committees in the Legislature and that this bill would expand the videoconferencing capabilities to all committees in both the House and Senate.

The Legislature should consider various options to encourage and facilitate live oral testimony from the neighbor islands, as well rural Oahu. While this measure requires each chamber of the Legislature to seek out State agencies sites with existing audio and audiovisual capabilities, OIMT would like to note that any increase in the use of these facilities would have an impact the State's network infrastructure. Additionally, there may be more cost-effective, citizen-centric technology solutions, such as Skype, that could be leveraged by individuals from their home or office computer. Regardless of the technology solution(s) employed, they must all be supported by the State's network infrastructure, which is overseen by the Chief Information Officer (CIO).

As such, we recommend that the CIO spearhead this effort in working with the legislature, the Department of Accounting and General Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that the potential audiovisual and videoconference technology solutions meet the technical requirements of the State's network, adhere to best practices, interface or are compatible with multiple platforms, and are provided the appropriate support resources. Additionally, we request that the appropriation be expended by the Chief Information Officer to reflect this responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.