



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony in **support** of HB696
Relating to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Johanson, Vice Chair

February 25, 2013
1:30 pm Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair Johanson, and members of the Finance Committee:

The Office of the Governor **supports** House Bill 696, Relating to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. This measure would allow a Lieutenant Governor whose legal residence is on an island other than Oahu to receive an allowance separate from their salary should they be required to remain overnight within the state but not on their island of residence.

High-ranking state officials need to spend much of their time at the State Capitol of on the island of Oahu. For individuals who do not reside on Oahu, this creates a problem. HB696 would ensure fairness in allowing anyone in the state – regardless of their island of residence – to work in the position of the Lieutenant Governor for the benefit of the entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 696, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2013 **TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General testifies to support the passage of this bill and recommend the drafting revisions set out below, if the Committee recommends its passage at Third Reading.

This bill proposes an amendment to section 26-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow a lieutenant governor who is a legal resident of a Neighbor Island to receive an allowance, like the allowance non-Oahu members of the Legislature receive under section 24-2, HRS, when it is necessary for that lieutenant governor to remain away from the island where the lieutenant governor resides overnight to conduct state business.

If the Committee intends to approve this measure, the Department recommends that

- (1) The reference to "transportation" on page 3, line 19, be deleted as unnecessary, inasmuch as the lieutenant governor would be entitled either to state-furnished transportation, or to be reimbursed for travel expenses under the Comptroller's travel rules; and
- (2) Line 20 on page 3 be reworded to expressly indicate who is to set the single rate the lieutenant governor would receive under the subsection (f) this bill adds to section 26-1, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.