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TESTIMONY OF
SANJEEV "SONNY" BHAGOWALIA, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Friday, February 8, 2013
2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

S.B. 961

RELATING TO INFORMATION SHARING

Chairs Dela Cruz and Wakai, Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 961. My name is Sanjeev "Sonny" Bhagowalia, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the State of Hawaii. The Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT) supports the intent of S.B. 961.

Information sharing is a central tenet of the State's Business and Information Technology/Information Resource Management (IT/IRM) Transformation Plan. OIMT is developing an enterprise architecture, which will allow for greater centralization of information and data, information sharing, and improved government efficiencies as we consolidate the 743 systems, software applications, and databases in silos across the departments. Consolidating and standardizing these disparate systems will allow the State to improve information sharing and address the needs and business processes across its 35 existing lines of business and 220 business functions. Information and data sharing will also facilitate reporting requirements to federal agencies as required, as well as support the State's Open Gov and Open Data Initiative, which is currently underway. Disaster recovery and continuity of operations also requires safeguarding of electronic information.

Our views are subject to four important qualifications. First, while OIMT supports information sharing, information and data protected from disclosure by law should not be subject to release and adhere to all applicable laws. Second, while the State's method of storing information and data in the future will move towards increased centralization, including electronic storage of records, and the tightening of information sharing standards of disparate databases, agencies should remain the primary caretaker of the information and data collected in connection with their operations. Thirdly, data provenance (where a piece of data comes from and the processes by which it arrived) is a key concern, as the lifecycle of information sharing requires continuous data and contextual understanding, handling and protection with updated policies, processes, and technologies. Finally, any requirements for the disclosure of information and data should take into account the departments' current limitations due to the state of existing legacy systems and resources that require substantial manual work in order to collect, share and report information and data.

With respect to the language of S.B. 961, we respectfully suggest the following modifications. The bill should focus on electronic information sharing as paper processes and data silos continue to exist across the State as previously stated. This is being addressed and remedied through the Transformation initiative, however it will take a multi-phased (7), multi-year (12) approach to fully solve.

We recommend clarifying that the departments who initially collect and generate the information and data as part of their operations constitute the authoritative source and custodian for purposes of legal proceedings. Moreover, the bill should clarify that nothing in the bill should be construed as limiting or minimizing each respective department's responsibility for protecting private or confidential information and data protected against disclosure by law. OIMT recommends that each department be required to designate a representative to serve as a departmental information and data representative and to assist OIMT in meeting the requirements of the bill. To facilitate the work, the bill should also provide the CIO (or designee) the authority to inspect each department's premises and interview staff for purposes of effectuating the intent of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.