

# SB954

Requires any report of a study or an audit made by an executive department or agency, including the Hawaii health systems corporation, and by the legislative reference bureau, auditor, judiciary, or office of Hawaiian affairs, to be submitted to the clerk of each house, senate president, speaker of the house, chairs of the appropriate subject matter committee of each house, and the legislative reference bureau library. Requires a public hearing or informational briefing, except if waived by the senate president or speaker of the house of representatives. Excludes certain routine reports.

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 954

February 1, 2013

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Senate Bill No. 954 adds a new part to Chapter 21, HRS, to require that any report of a study or an audit made by an Executive department/agency, Legislative Reference Bureau, Auditor, Judiciary, or Office of Hawaiian Affairs be submitted to the Clerk of each house, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chairs of the appropriate subject matter committee of each house, and Legislative Reference Bureau Library. The bill also requires a public hearing or informational briefing on each report (excluding certain routine reports), except if waived by the Senate President or Speaker of the House.

Although the Department of Budget and Finance supports greater transparency, we are **opposed** to this bill because:

- It unnecessarily burdens agencies with the time-consuming task not only of preparing the report, but also preparing for a public hearing.
- Committee Chairs already have the authority to hold an informational briefing based on their priorities and issues important to the Legislature and the Administration will do its best to accommodate and participate in such hearings/briefings.

It should be noted that a similar bill (Senate Bill No. 1105) was vetoed by then Governor Lingle in 2010 for the reasons noted above.