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Comptroller

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

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LATE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE
ON
APRIL 5, 2016

H.C.R. 201

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO IDENTIFY AND PRIOTITIZE REPAIR AND MAINTAINANCE PROJECTS FOR ALL STATE BUILDINGS BASED ON THE HIGHEST HEALTH AND SAFETY NEEDS.

Chair Luke and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.C.R. 201. We respectfully oppose the passage of this resolution for two reasons.

First, the current repair and maintenance prioritization process is the best way for the state to manage its repair and maintenance priorities. The current process allows each department to consider its mission, obligations, risks and priorities in establishing its prioritized repair and maintenance list. These prioritized lists are then further vetted by the Governor through the budget process. While the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) could evaluate the scope of the repair and maintenance needed, we would not be well suited to substitute our judgement on priorities over other departments or the Governor. For example, based on need for repair, DAGS might prioritize repair on a building that the managing department might prefer to condemn.

Second, DAGS is currently resourced to evaluate only a fraction of the state's buildings. The State Building Asset Management database shows that the state has approximately 7400 buildings. Less than 100 are currently managed directly by DAGS. We provide assistance to some of the other departments in evaluating the condition of buildings, but we do not evaluate the majority of the state's buildings. DAGS would require a substantial increase in resources to manage the prioritization process described in the resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.