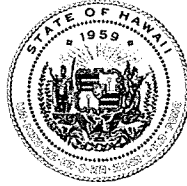


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

January 30, 2018
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

S.B. 2515
RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYMENT

Senate Committee on Labor

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill. The DOT appreciates ACT 160 which allowed the department to proceed with the staffing of projects approved by the Governor, without risking the loss of potential funding sources due to delays in establishing needed positions.

Examples include projects relating to the homeless population under or along our freeways and highways, harbor modernization, and airport improvements. Without the provision, we would not have been able to immediately create the manpower needed to implement these critical projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony by:

JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:



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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB2515
RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYMENT.**

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Hearing Date: January 30, 2018

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes SB2515, which
3 repeals the authority of department heads to establish positions in special projects approved by
4 the Governor. The department acknowledges the personnel management discipline that the civil
5 service system emphasizes, but believes that existing policies offer sufficient checks and
6 balances. For example, Act 160 SLH 2015 requires that special projects be time-limited and
7 may not be extended.

8 The Department of Health relies on special projects to quickly implement programs to meet
9 emerging community needs that the existing bureaucracy is unable to absorb. A recent case in
10 point is the special project to rapidly respond to rat lungworm disease. More routinely, other
11 special projects are authorized to implement a new federal grant, which have lifespans of three to
12 five years, and for which taking one or two budget cycles to establish an administrative
13 infrastructure is not feasible and jeopardizes Hawaii's competitiveness.

14 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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