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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
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## Written Comments

### SCR50

# REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING DESIGNATING, DISSOLVING, OR TRANSFERRING CERTAIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS UNDER THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Presented to the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Friday, March 23, 2018, 2:55 p.m.  
Conference Room 224

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee. My name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.C.R. No. 50, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Study Regarding Designating, Dissolving, or Transferring Certain Community Development Districts Under the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study regarding designating, dissolving, or transferring certain community development districts under the Hawaii community development authority.

Specifically, that the measure requests that the Bureau:

- (1) Assess and analyze the impact of designating a community development district for East Kapolei;

- (2) Assess and analyze the impact of dissolving the Kakaako Community Development District; and
- (3) Determine the feasibility of transferring the Heeia Community Development District to the jurisdiction of a state agency other than the Hawaii Community Development Authority and, if a transfer is feasible, identify the alternative state agencies.

The measure also requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of this measure, but submits the following comments for your consideration.

As currently drafted, it is unclear what sort of "impact" the Bureau is being requested to study. The measure provides no guidance that would direct the Bureau's scope of inquiry. Without more specific guidance, any resulting study would be elementary at best; and at worst, may not even provide the Legislature with a product that addresses its true concerns. In addition, the Bureau would like to note that it does not currently employ any personnel with expertise in urban or regional planning.

If the measure is amended to provide more specific instructions on what types of impacts the Bureau is to be studying and what objectives the Legislature is trying to attain, and if assessing those impacts are within the Bureau's existing scope of expertise, then the Bureau believes that the services requested under the measure could be manageable and that the Bureau would be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.