

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
BY
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
FEBRUARY 8, 2019, 8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 894
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
LAND SURVEY BUDGET

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on H.B. 894. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent of H.B. 894 and offers comments and proposed amendments as related to AGS-211 Land Survey (“Program”).

H.B. 894 appears to be a vehicle to appropriate operating funds for fiscal year biennium (FB) 2019 - 2021 for the Program under the purview of the committee. We support this measure to provide positions in the operating budget for the Program, however, the funding amounts have been left blank, presumably to be inserted upon completion of program evaluation and recommendations by the committee as part of the legislatures’ desire to move the state towards performance-based budgeting.

The Program’s mission is to provide statewide field and office land survey assistance. The Program goals are to provide survey services to government agencies and general public as well as to protect the interest of the State of Hawaii in land matters. Program provides training for

employees to enable them to perform Program functions; continue to maintain and update the shoreline certification webpage regularly; and digitize one-hundred per-cent (100%) of the State's official maps and related documents to make the electronic copies accessible on the Program's website.

The Office of Hawaiian Government Survey was established under the Interior Department in 1970 to account for all the land in the Kingdom by its original title and indicate such accounting on general maps. Act 1 of the Special Session of 1959 placed the functions of the territorial or state surveyor under DAGS. The Program provides statewide office and field land survey work for various government agencies by preparing, furnishing, and maintaining maps and descriptions of all public lands required by other State agencies for the issuance of Governor's Executive Orders, general leases, grants of easements as well as the sale of government lands or purchase of private lands for public purposes; reviewing and signing all "Return of the State Land Surveyor" forms prepared; reviewing File Plan maps for the Bureau of Conveyances; preparing reports for the Department of Attorney General for quiet title action suits in which the State is named as defendant; providing expert testimonies on land litigations, reviewing all shoreline maps submitted to the State for certification; and serving as the official depository of all Government Survey Registered Maps, and other survey information.

The Program looks forward to continued funding for our operations and positions under AGS-211 Land Survey, for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, as provided in the Governor's Executive Budget request in H.B. 964:

PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

| ITEM NO | PROGRAM | PROGRAM ID | EXPENDING AGENCY | APPROPRIATIONS | | | |
|---------|-------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| | | | | FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 | MOF | FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 | MOF |
| | LAND SURVEY | | | | | | |
| | | AGS211 | | | | | |
| | OPERATING | | AGS | 769,420 | A | 769,420 | A |
| | | | AGS | 285,000 | U | 285,000 | U |
| | | | | 10.00 | * | 10.00 | * |

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