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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
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## Written Comments

### **SB502**

### **RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director  
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Thursday, January 31, 2019, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Chair Thielen and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Thielen 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.B. No. 520, Relating to Government Accountability.

The purpose of this measure is to require the following:

- (1) That the appropriate receiving elective officer of each chamber of the Legislature promptly notify the Legislative Reference Bureau of the receipt of any report required by law to be submitted to the Legislature or requested by legislative concurrent resolution;
- (2) That the Legislative Reference Bureau develop a spreadsheet informing members of the Legislature on the status and subject of all reports to be submitted to the Legislature as required by law or requested by legislative concurrent resolution;
- (3) That the Legislative Reference Bureau inform the Legislature of all annual and other reports required by law to be submitted to the Legislature or requested by legislative concurrent resolution that were not timely submitted; and

- (4) That governmental agencies that submit reports include certain information in their reports to facilitate the Legislative Reference Bureau's timely reporting of the submission of those reports.

The measure also requires the Bureau to make a copy of the spreadsheet available to all members of the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each Regular Session.

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

The Bureau has done an approximate compilation of existing reporting requirements that are required pursuant to the Hawaii Revised Statutes or the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, on a permanent, ongoing basis, and has found that state agencies are statutorily required to provide approximately 361 reports to the Legislature each year, not including any reports required or requested for a finite period of time that may be contained in a session law or resolution.

The Bureau would like to note that, since 1997, within approximately two weeks after each Regular Session concludes, the Bureau's Systems Office (LRBSO) has been providing the Legislature with a report that identifies and describes all legislation that was either passed or adopted during the immediately preceding Regular Session and that requires or requests a report back to the Legislature. This report already includes much of the information required in the measure, except that the measure would also require other information such as:

- (1) The Act number of the bill requiring the report. (We note that the LRBSO report has generally referred to bill numbers, as it has historically been published *prior to the elapsing of the 45 day time period* that the Governor has to veto a bill that was passed by the Legislature less than 10 days prior to the end of a Regular Session);
- (2) The amount of money appropriated for the study that was the basis for the report and for the compilation of the report; and
- (3) The date upon which the Legislature received the required report.

This report, as well as previous years' reports back to 1997, are available year-round as a spreadsheet on the Bureau's website at <http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/bill.html>.

The Bureau sees no obstacle in editing and reissuing this report again *after the 45 day veto override time period has elapsed* so that act numbers can be included, and then *again not later than the 20<sup>th</sup> day prior to each Regular Session convening* to indicate which required or requested report has been submitted; provided that all submitting agencies timely provide the information identified in sections 2, 3, and 4 of the measure.

As currently drafted, the Bureau believes that the services requested under this measure are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted.

Thank you again for your consideration.

**SB-502**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:26:06 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/31/2019 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: