



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 921, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY. For more information, call Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole, Deputy Attorney General, at 587-2978

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill but has strong concerns.

The bill amends section 26-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to create a division within the Department that is required to be staffed with attorneys and others with formal education in Hawaiian language and culture, to provide legal advice on Hawaiian shoreline public access rights.

Section 26-7 designates the Attorney General as the single executive responsible for the Department that administers and renders state legal services, including the management of Department personnel tasked with providing these services. By requiring specific staffing with particular qualifications, S.B. No. 921 would impinge upon this authority and unnecessarily restrict the Attorney General's management of the Department.

We acknowledge that an understanding of Hawaiian language and culture may at times be necessary to analyze certain issues encountered by the Department. That is why, in the event shoreline access issues require specialized knowledge in Hawaiian language and culture, we have and will continue to rely on the expertise of personnel already employed by the Department or other state agencies. If necessary, the

Department could also retain expert consultants and witnesses on a case-by-case basis.

We respectfully ask that the Committees recognize and support the management authority of the Attorney General and hold this bill.

SB-921-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:23:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Individual	Support	No

Comments: