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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, STATE COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

LATE

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021, 1:40 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 762, S.D. 1

RELATING TO STATE CAPITOL FACILITIES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 762, S.D.1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the opportunity to offer **comments** that may improve security protection at the State Capitol. We further appreciate the addition in the S.D. 1 version of more comprehensive long-term plans and designs for a secured underground public parking facility and above ground mall, which may be accomplished by updating the DAGS' State Capitol District mall master plan.

Public safety is everyone's responsibility. The DAGS is willing to facilitate the process to review prior plans and update a Capitol Security Plan. The DAGS will also update the State Capitol District mall master plan. To implement security measures, adequate funding is requested. The DAGS will need to depend on other security experts to develop meaningful and effective security measures to restrict dangerous crowds, weapons, explosives, or vehicular access. The DAGS may have to contract with security consultants with security operational expertise. We

look forward to collaborating with the Department of Public Safety, House and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Office of the Governor on this important initiative. The goal will be to agree to and implement a unified security strategy that balances building security, employee safety and public accessibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, March 4, 2021
1:40 PM
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 762, SD1
RELATING TO STATE CAPITOL FACILITIES.

Chair DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments on SB 762, SD1 which (1) requires the department of accounting and general services to develop and implement an enhanced security plan for the state capitol and surrounding grounds and (2) amends provisions regarding the internal governance of the state capitol management committee.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization focused on upholding the core values of American democracy through increasing civic engagement and breaking down the barriers to participation in our government.

Common Cause Hawaii acknowledges the great fear that has pervaded this nation and great distrust in the institutions of government that has taken hold of the citizenry, even in Hawaii. Common Cause Hawaii wants our elected officials and government employees and those who visit our government institutions to be safe.

Common Cause Hawaii especially wants our government institutions to be a welcoming place, an open place. We cannot have an open government, welcoming of different viewpoints, beliefs, and people, if it is not accessible to the public and closed off from the people. A government fearful of its people cannot represent the people. Our Capitol must continue to be the "People's House". Otherwise, the distrust, cynicism and contempt for our government will grow, leading to less civic engagement and civic civility.

Common Cause Hawaii respectfully asks that if this committee moves this bill that consideration is given to having a public advocate be appointed to the state capitol management committee for the public's views to be taken into consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 762, SD1. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,
Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



3 March 2021

Committee of Ways and Means

Subject: SB No. 762 SD 1 – Relating to Capitol Facilities

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Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee:

I urge passage of Senate Bill 762, Senate Draft 1. Our office has had the pleasure of working on many of the key buildings in Hawaii's Capitol District. From that perspective we are sensitive to the security challenges that many of these facilities face. At the same time, we recognize the need to respect the accessibility requirements that are the hallmark of a democratic way of life. We are hopeful that solutions can be found that will respect both the needs for security and an open society.

There has long been talk about increasing the integration of the various sites that offer cultural and artistic experiences, including 'Iolani Palace, Mission Houses Museum and Archives, State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, Washington Place Museum, Tenney Theater, and the Judiciary Museum. Any effort to revise parking in the District will also need to address this goal and the implications of the presence of these public-access facilities.

The efforts of the State Capitol Management Committee will hopefully see this as an opportunity for promoting our culture and not see this simply as an exercise in restriction.

Sincerely,

Glenn E. Mason, FAIA
President

