

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

FEBRUARY 7, 2023, 9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 1206

RELATING TO A STATE PERMITTING OFFICE.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to House Bill (H.B.) 1206, which establishes the State Permitting Office within the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to process building and infrastructure permits for construction of state-owned buildings, state roads and highways, and other construction on state lands.

We appreciate the intent of this proposed legislation as DAGS is often faced with significant delays directly related to the counties' permitting process. The delays at the county-level are often due to resource limitations, volume of permits, and the complexity of the projects under review. DAGS has made numerous attempts to work with each county over the years to address the delays with limited success. We have found each county permitting office to be willing to help but, due to their respective processes and procedures, it has not lessened the time to review and approve State construction permits.

The State does have the ability to exempt itself from the county-driven permitting process if it so desires. DAGS has used this exemption on a very limited basis because we've found this creates more

problems than benefits. It is our understanding that completed exempt projects, when attempting to receive a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or to hook up to “county” services, have been met with resistance from the county that further delayed the final completion of the projects.

While we appreciate the development of a State Permitting Office, we would urge you to consider developing language that would require each county to issue a Certificate of Occupancy for State projects that have been exempted from the county permitting process once they have been completed, passed final inspection by a State designated inspector, and have been formally accepted by the State. Additionally, we would ask that language be developed that would require each county to allow State exempted projects to connect with any and all required services including but not limited to potable water, wastewater, stormwater, trash and other county-provided services.

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