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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024, 2:00 P. M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 329 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.R. 130 and H.C.R. 151

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF EXEMPTING ALL STATE-RELATED CONSTRUCTION FROM COUNTY PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS AND ESTABLISHING A PERMITTING DIVISION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PERMITTING SERVICES FOR ALL STATE-RELATED CONSTRUCTION.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of H.R. 130 and H.C.R. 151.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) recognizes the need to provide expedited permitting review to ensure our state projects bring benefit to the people of Hawaii as quickly and effectively as possible. We agree that conducting this study would be beneficial to determining whether exempting state-related construction from county permitting requirements and establishing a permitting division within DAGS for all state-related construction would be feasible.

However, we also recognize that each county is unique, with its own specialty codes and coordination requirements that would require more effort to develop a universal state permitting process and determine its feasibility to implement and operate than our staff is able to accomplish. Therefore, due to the lack of funding to support a consultant contract, we would appreciate expanded financial support to fund consultant services to conduct the necessary research, coordination, and analysis for the feasibility study as long as it does not adversely impact priorities identified in the executive supplemental budget request for FY 2025.

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