



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In Opposition

Senate Bill No. 711, Relating to Gubernatorial Appointments

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations:

The Office of the Governor respectfully opposes S.B. No. 711, Relating to Gubernatorial Appointments. This bill requires a person appointed to service in the executive branch to obtain the advice and consent of the Senate if that person's salary meets certain conditions within the proposed legislation.

The proposed changes to Chapter 26, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, presents several governance challenges for consideration:

1. **Limits Executive Flexibility:** The measure requires Senate advice and consent for gubernatorial appointees with salaries above certain thresholds. This requirement restricts the Governor's ability to quickly and efficiently appoint individuals to key roles, potentially delaying decisions critical to the functioning of the executive branch.
2. **Overly Broad Scope:** The provision applies not only to appointees within the Governor's Office but also to those in agencies attached to principal departments for administrative purposes. This broad application imposes additional procedural requirements on appointments that may not warrant such heightened oversight.
3. **Strains Separation of Roles:** By extending the Senate's role into the confirmation of a wide range of executive branch appointees, this measure introduces a new layer of procedural complexity that could affect the ability of the executive branch to operate efficiently. The Governor is tasked with executing state laws, including appointing personnel to implement those laws. Expanding the confirmation process risks introducing delays in fulfilling this mandate.
4. **Risk of Delayed Appointments:** While Senate advice and consent processes promote transparency, expanding this process to a wide array of positions could

result in delays, hindering the timely appointment of qualified individuals and affecting government efficiency.

In conclusion, his provision introduces challenges that could impede the Governor's ability to manage executive branch appointments effectively. A more narrowly tailored approach, focused on high-level positions with significant public impact, would strike a better balance between transparency and operational efficiency.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

LATE

SB-711

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:03:27 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Honda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support. Thank you Chair! Aloha~