

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
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DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021, 9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 246, S.D. 1

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 246, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent of S.B. 246, S.D. 1 which establishes a state government alignment commission to periodically review State executive branch's departments, divisions, and agencies, including functions and services, and submit its findings and recommendations to the legislature. The DAGS offers the following comments:

1. Government needs to get more efficient.
2. Government should re-evaluate functions and duplication of efforts and assess the feasibility to consolidate and eliminate outdated processes.
3. Government should look at how technology can improve workflow and business processes that will mitigate risk and simplify getting things done to better serve the public.

4. Government needs to work with unions and update job descriptions of employees and help improve their knowledge and skills to match today's expectations. Employees should be compensated based on performance and being held accountable to achieve the results the legislature and administration are expecting.

In addition, the DAGS has the following concerns:

- This bill does not provide for funding to achieve the intended results expected.
- The DAGS believes that the collective bargaining process is excellent to protect employee rights and provides a foundation of security for continued employment. Unfortunately, those same principles may produce counter results when trying to effect change, increasing duties to achieve more efficiency, and challenging employees to accept new and uncharted tasks that introduce risk.
- Consolidation of government to gain efficiency and results is a statewide initiative that will require all branches of government with a unified commitment to accept and practice the same principles of employment and accountability. Without unified support, silo and individual interests will prevail and produce inconsistent results from what the intended intent of this bill is trying to accomplish.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

February 26, 2021

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Via Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony supporting SB 246 SD1, Relating to Government

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

My name is Christine Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who advocate for an accessible, accountable and responsive state government that leverages technology to help citizens, communities, and businesses throughout Hawai'i to thrive. We provide a consistent and persistent voice to keep modernization a top priority of state government.

THG supports the intent of SB 246 SD1, Relating to Government, which establishes a state government realignment commission to periodically review the state executive branch's departments, divisions, and agencies, including functions and services, and submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Sakuda
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SB-246-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:14:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yvonne Geesey | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Strongly oppose.