

**Date:** 04/01/2009

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

**Title of Bill:** SB 830, SD2, HD1(HSCR1198) RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES TECHNOLOGY.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the shared services technology special fund to allow departments and agencies to pool resources for common technology systems, hardware, and software. (SB830 HD1)

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 830, SD2, HD1 and believes that the bill should be clarified in three important areas:

1. The wording does not clearly state that participation by departments and agencies is voluntary, so we recommend that this be clearly stated.
2. We further recommend that the structure of the fund and department participation be defined more specifically, to clarify that departments can elect to participate in only those specific technology areas that are relevant to their needs. For example, a volume purchase of licenses for a specific vendor's database product may be relevant to some departments and not at all applicable to others. The intent of this recommendation is to make it clear that a department or agency will not be required to contribute to the fund for a purpose which will not benefit the department at all.
3. SECTION 2., paragraph (a) (2), states: "The use of these funds shall be authorized by the legislature prior to expenditure." Since the funds from each participating department or agency would have been already appropriated prior to being deposited in the shared services technology special fund, it seems impractical and cumbersome to additionally require

that the legislature approve use of the fund prior to expenditures. For this reason, we recommend deleting this requirement.

There are definitely many potential technology areas of common interest where multiple departments and agencies will want to participate in the fund and associated benefits. However, to make this work in a manner that will encourage participation, we believe that the wording should be clarified as indicated to allow departments to align their participation to their needs.

The DOE very much looks forward to working with the Department of Accounting and General Services and other state departments in identifying opportunities for applying the shared technology concepts and the proposed fund, to obtain efficiencies not otherwise possible.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO  
Comptroller

BARBARA A. ANNIS  
Deputy Director

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING**  
**AND GENERAL SERVICES**  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE  
ON  
April 1, 2009

S.B. 830, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES TECHNOLOGY

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 830, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) strongly supports this bill in its original language as S.B. 830. In its current form as S.B. 830, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, DAGS has amendments to recommend.

On page 3, lines 5-6, the provision that "The use of the funds shall be authorized by the legislature prior to expenditure", should be deleted. At the time budgets are submitted to the Legislature, exact and complete details on hardware, software, network, and peripheral systems required are not known. Expenditure levels can be reasonably estimated but not the acquisition-ready details. Requiring that such acquisitions be authorized by the Legislature will be ineffective. Acquisitions to accomplish the current departmental IT needs will end up being

delayed until the next Legislative Session in order to be authorized by the Legislature prior to expenditure.

There is sufficient protection that the expenditures will be appropriate by the provision on page 2, line 18 to page 3 line 4, “the purposes, for which any funds deposited into the shared services technology special fund may be used, shall be within the appropriate duties and responsibilities of the department of accounting and general services for information and technology services;” as well as, requiring, on page 3 lines 7-18, a complete accounting of the fund and its expenditures.

DAGS also recommends an amendment to page 3 lines 13-14. Here, the term “generating revenues” should be replaced with “receiving monies”. The fund does not generate revenue, it simply receives monies from participating departments.

Finally, DAGS recognizes the desire of agencies for participation in the shared services technology special fund to be voluntary. To address this view, DAGS has no objection to replacing the word “shall”, in page 1, line 8, and page 2, line 12, with the word “may”.

There would also need to be the proper appropriation ceiling language added so that monies from the fund can be expended. A ceiling of \$12.5 million would be acceptable, if participation in the fund is voluntary. Be assured that this ceiling is not added money, it is simply to allow DAGS to spend the money that is placed into the fund by agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**Democratic Party of Hawaii  
Kupuna Caucus**

**April 1, 2009**

Re: Testimony

From: Patrick Stanley, Co-Chair Kupuna Caucus, DPH  
To: House Committee on Finance

Hearing Date: April 1, 2009, 1:00pm

Measure: SB830 SD2 HD1 Relating to Shared Services Technology

**SUPPORTS:** The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports this measure to provide for the statewide sharing of information technology systems, hardware and software to assist our elders live in safer and more nurturing environments. We are especially concerned that information about nursing, care, and adult foster homes and assisted living facilities is not easily available on the public internet.

Shared services technology with inspection information regarding elderly facilities would greatly improve the living environments of our elders. We recommend that you consider incorporating the intent and language of SB818 SD2 into the purposes of SB830 SD2 HD1 to assure that our assisted kupuna will not continue to be neglected and that information about the quality of their lives is transparent.

Patrick Stanley  
1420 Victoria Street #1204  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
531-5648



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

**SB830, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES  
TECHNOLOGY.**

1 pm, Finance Committee, April 1 2009

**Kokua Council** whose mission includes advocating for the health of the elderly and those vulnerable populations who cannot advocate for asks the Finance Committee **include the posting on the web of inspections of care homes and foster homes. We believe this service fits the scope and intent of this bill.**

Our reasons for including this are as follows:

Our state requires inspections in order to protect the public. Finding information on a nursing home is made easy by a simple click on the DOH or DHS Website. While care homes and foster homes are inspected, and filed with the appropriate Departments, nowhere on the Web is this information available.

Families must find a suitable care or foster home within a few days and do not have the time to visit available sites in order to make a judgment on which home would be best for their family member.

Inclusion in this bill will not only be cost savings for Departments but will encourage better quality of services.

For these reasons, Kokua Council asks for its inclusion and will support this bill that will

- quickly help families and patients decide where they want to be.
- help people access information to make the best possible placement decision possible.
- help social workers and discharge planners use this information so they can do their jobs more professionally.
- Encourage care facilities to improve their services.

Laura G. Manis, Legislative Chair  
Tel. 597-8838

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:27 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** john.mcdermott@doh.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB830 on 4/1/2009 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/1/2009 1:00:00 PM SB830

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John G. McDermott  
Organization: State Long Term Care Ombudsman  
Address: 250 South Hotel Street, suite 406 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-7268  
E-mail: john.mcdermott@doh.hawaii.gov  
Submitted on: 3/31/2009

### Comments:

I am testifying IN FAVOR of S.B. 830 and requesting that you consider amending this bill to include S.B. 818, SD2 which was passed unanimously by the Senate and is related to S.B. 830 in that it is about improving our technology so that the public has greater access to information when making decisions regarding long term care placement.

The purpose of S.B. 818 was to require the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to post on their respective websites reports of all inspections of residential care facilities. I believe this bill is very much needed and especially now as our senior and disabled populations are rapidly increasing while our nursing home bed capacity has remained approximately the same. If there are few available nursing home beds for this approaching "gray tsunami," where will all these people go for their care?

Anyone, old or young, can suddenly find himself or herself hospitalized and later in need of long term care. Today, finding information on a nursing home is easy. Just type [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and click on "Nursing Home Compare." It will give you the annual inspections for every nursing home in the country. All the Department of Health has to do is create a link to this site.

But in Hawaii most of our nursing homes are full...and expensive. If someone has to rely on an adult residential care home or adult foster home for their long term care needs, or is interested in information on assisted living facilities, where is that website? Nowhere. It does exist in at least 17 other states, but not Hawaii, not yet.

Our State requires inspections in order to protect the public. And these inspections are paid by us, the taxpayers. So why shouldn't this same information be easily accessible, by a simple click on the DOH or DHS website? Both bills are about consumer education. Both bills are about transparency. S.B. 818 will help motivate ARCHs, adult foster homes and assisted living facilities to do a better job once they realize their inspections are now easily available for all to see. It promotes healthy competition. The focus is no longer on which is the cheapest but which is the best? It allows residents to see if their complaints to surveyors were appropriately documented and investigated. It allows caregivers to compare their surveys with other caregivers to see if it was done fairly, impartially, that everyone was treated the same. It allows the public, and our legislators, to see if we have a problem with the care provided and how we can work together to improve that care.

Once no longer acute care level, families and patients are told at the hospital they must decide where they want to be discharged quickly or become private pay at the hospital rate. "Managed" care means no more waiting for a nursing home bed to open up. Most people can't afford this and so they need this information so they can make the best placement decision possible. Social workers and discharge planners also need this information so they can assist the patients and their families in these decisions and do their jobs more professionally. Getting patients out of the hospitals more quickly SAVES the State money.

Patients and their families will have more confidence that, despite media reports highlighting the exceptions to the rule, we do have good homes out there. No one should be forced to make such an important decision like long term care placement in a vacuum.

The Honolulu Advertiser reported on March 16, 2009 that, according to the National Freedom of Information Coalition, Hawaii is 26th in the nation when it comes to free online services provided by government agencies. Passing this bill will help move us up a notch or two.

The inspections are already being done. The results are probably in somebody's computer. It shouldn't be that expensive or complicated to create a link so the public can review the information they paid for and which was done for their protection. I and fellow advocates are asking that the Departments of Health and Human Services to come together and make this happen as soon as possible. Mahalo.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

#### Websites Posting Long Term Care Facilities Inspection Results

Alabama	<a href="http://www.adph.org">www.adph.org</a>
Arizona	<a href="http://www.azdhs.gov/als/index.htm">http://www.azdhs.gov/als/index.htm</a>
Colorado	<a href="http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/alr/index.html">http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/alr/index.html</a>
Georgia	<a href="http://www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us">www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us</a>
Iowa	<a href="http://www.dia-hfd@state.ia.us">www.dia-hfd@state.ia.us</a>
Michigan	<a href="http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/brs_afc/sr_afc.asp">http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/brs_afc/sr_afc.asp</a>
Minnesota	
Missouri	<a href="http://www.dhss.mo.gov/showmelongtermcare/">http://www.dhss.mo.gov/showmelongtermcare/</a>
New Jersey	<a href="http://www.state.nj.us/health/healthfacilities/alr.shtml">http://www.state.nj.us/health/healthfacilities/alr.shtml</a>
New Mexico	<a href="http://www.dhi.health.state.nm.us">www.dhi.health.state.nm.us</a> <a href="http://dhi.health.state.nm.us/providersearch/index.php">http://dhi.health.state.nm.us/providersearch/index.php</a>
New York	<a href="http://www.health.state.ny.us/facilities/adult_care/">http://www.health.state.ny.us/facilities/adult_care/</a>
North Carolina	<a href="http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/index.html">http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/index.html</a>
Ohio	<a href="http://www.ltcoho.org">www.ltcoho.org</a>
Pennsylvania	<a href="http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/PhysicalDisabilities/003670205.a">http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/PhysicalDisabilities/003670205.a</a> <a href="http://app2.health.state.pa.us/commonpoc/nhLocator.asp">http://app2.health.state.pa.us/commonpoc/nhLocator.asp</a>
Texas	<a href="http://facilityquality.dads.state.tx.us/ltcqrs_public/nq1/jsp2/qrsGeoArealen.jsp?MODE=P&amp;LANGCD=en&amp;TYPSRV=al_all">http://facilityquality.dads.state.tx.us/ltcqrs_public/nq1/jsp2/qrsGeoArealen.jsp?MODE=P&amp;LANGCD=en&amp;TYPSRV=al_all</a>
Virginia	<a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov">http://www.dss.virginia.gov</a>
Wisconsin	<a href="http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bqaconsumer/ResidOpts/seek.htm">http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bqaconsumer/ResidOpts/seek.htm</a>

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:42 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB830 on 4/1/2009 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/1/2009 1:00:00 PM SB830

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer  
Organization: PABEA Legislative Committee  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com  
Submitted on: 3/31/2009

### Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a professor emeritus of public health and former director of the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii. I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the executive office on aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board.

We ask that the finance committee amend this bill to include posting on the web of inspections of care homes and foster homes, as called for in SB 818. At present, consumers can find information about hospitals and nursing homes on the web. This makes it easier to identify facilities which would be appropriate for given patients. As of now, consumers are forced to seek information about care and foster homes by contacting the appropriate licensing and regulatory agencies. There is no way to get comparative information short of searching through reports of many individual facilities, identifying appropriate and available sites, and visiting individual facilities. Families needing a care home or foster home often have but few days at best to make placement decisions. We believe that the current situation places an unreasonable burden on older people and their families. Many states have similar websites as a matter of public policy. These include: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Hawaii, which calls itself the health state, can and should be next on this list.

The Departments of Health and Human Services have submitted testimony opposing SB 818 on various grounds, including the statement that providing such information on the Web would be difficult and costly. The fact that so many other states have done this suggests that the department's objections are not well founded. We also believe that the objections raised by provider organizations can be dealt with. We assume that the inspecting agencies provide an opportunity for facilities to correct deficiencies, and that it should be possible to post limited amounts of information in a timely manner which will take into account corrections that may have been made.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.