

SB-2172-SD-1

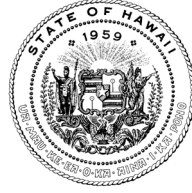
Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:56:58 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNETTE TASHIRO	State Rehabilitation Council	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the former Chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council and present Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council, it has been a challenge to navigate the State Boards and Commission system. Without staff liaison supporting the process and the Office of State Boards and Commission recruiting and retention of Board members has become a problem. As in the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the national guidelines make the Council autonomous. If the Boards and Commission Office does not have any experience in the requirement or becomes short-staffed, the Board is left unattended. The SILC has a Chair whose term has ended. The DVR staff liaison has so much on her plate that the SILC is seriously in jeopardy of disintegrating. The SILC is required for the State of Hawaii to receive Independent Living funding. At the same time, the Executive Office on Aging has neglected the Disability part of their Administration for Community Living (DHHS) Federal funding. Other States have used staff to Chair the SILC because the Federal requires documentation and regular reports. Boards and Commission members are volunteers. The present SILC Chair has a full-time job on Maui responding to the recovery of the Wildfire. Yet she is responsible for the health and well-being of the Council. The Council Chair position should have direct staff support. Federal grants include funding for State staffing. Please do more research in this area.



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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Labor & Government Affairs
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2172, S.D. 1, RELATING TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit staff members from assuming the authority and duties of the chairperson of a board or commission.

The Department appreciates this measure, and notes the boards, commissions, and committees administratively attached to the Division comply with Hawaii Revised Statutes section 436B-6(a), which states, "...the board shall elect one member as chair and member as vice-chair. In the absence of both the chair and vice-chair to preside at a meeting, the members present shall select a chair pro tem."

Additionally, these same boards/commissions generally follow the Robert's Rules of Order, which is the foremost guide on parliamentary procedures. The Robert's Rules

of Order recommends that in the absence of the presiding officer/chairperson, the vice chairperson is next. If neither are present, a member of the board calls the meeting to order and conducts an election for chairperson pro tem. Neither of these procedures appear to allow staff members to assume the authority and duties of the chairperson of a board or commission, whether present or in their absence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.