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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OF #1959 1. 19

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WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2652, S.D. 1

March 14, 2024 9:15 a.m. Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE BUDGET

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2652, S.D. 1, amends Section 37-71(a), HRS, and Section 37-72, HRS, to add a provision that the Executive Biennium Budget and Executive Supplemental Budget, respectively, may contain information under Section 26-5(a)(2)(A), HRS.

Section 26-5(a)(2)(A) specifies that the Director of Human Resources Development has the authority to reclassify and abolish vacant positions within State departments and agencies that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Resources Development, subject to the condition that prior to reclassifying or abolishing any vacant position, the Director shall submit a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to each regular session. The report shall include a list of vacant positions for reclassification or abolishment, identify the agency each position is attached to, provide reasons for reclassifying or abolishing the position, and state the duration that the position has been vacant.

B&F would like to point out that similar information is currently being requested in the format for budget testimony by the Senate and House money committees. It is not clear what additional information the Legislature wants displayed in the Executive's formal budget document that is not being provided in detailed testimony.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.