



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, February 3, 2025

3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**In Opposition
Senate Bill No. 2862, Relating to Government Positions**

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

The Office of the Governor respectfully opposes S.B. No. 2862, Relating to Gubernatorial Appointments. This bill requires Senate advice and consent for gubernatorial appointments in the executive branch when the position's annual salary exceeds \$160,000 and is not paid from the budget of the Office of the Governor.

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

1. **Limits Executive Flexibility:** The measure requires Senate advice and consent for certain gubernatorial appointees within the executive branch. These requirements restrict 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:** This broad application on certain staff within the Governor's Office, 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.

In conclusion, the provisions introduce challenges that could impede the Governor's ability to manage executive branch appointments effectively. While we are open to continued discussion on the matter of appointees, the Office respectfully requests you defer this measure.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2862, Relating to Gubernatorial Appointments
Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) submits testimony in **opposition** of Senate Bill 2862, relating to Gubernatorial Appointments, which requires any person appointed by the Governor to serve in the Executive Branch in a position that is not subject to the civil service law to obtain the advice and consent of the Senate if that person's salary is greater than \$160,000 and is not paid from the budget of the Office of the Governor.

The Legislature established the HCSOC to serve as an independent oversight body responsible for ensuring transparency, accountability, and lawful operation within Hawai'i's correctional system. The effectiveness and credibility of the Commission depend fundamentally on its institutional independence, particularly from political influence. Any measure that constrains independence threatens to weaken oversight, reduce transparency, and limit the Commission's ability to protect incarcerated individuals, staff, and the public.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-849-3580 or at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2862

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:58:26 PM
Testimony for GVO on 2/3/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Kagemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you Chair Mckelvey and committee members for hearing this bill. I appreciate the idea of giving the legislature (and public) as many opportunities as possible to learn about a nominee's qualifications, background, and perspectives on policy. It is always good to know that the people appointed to serve in important positions are fit to serve the greater public interest. Thank you again for hearing this measure.