

MAR 10 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO
CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CREATING AN
OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHITECT.

1 WHEREAS, the design review and approval process for state
2 construction projects would benefit from centralization under a
3 single authority; and
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5 WHEREAS, a single agency dedicated to reviewing state
6 construction projects for compliance with applicable building
7 codes and construction standards would streamline the design
8 review process and safeguard the public against unsafe
9 construction; and
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11 WHEREAS, a centralized agency headed by an architect
12 licensed in the State, having general charge and oversight of
13 the design review of all state construction projects, would
14 promote consistency in design and predictability throughout the
15 project life cycle; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
20 Accounting and General Services is requested to conduct a study
21 on the costs and benefits of creating within the Department an
22 Office of the State Architect headed by a full-time State
23 Architect having general charge and oversight of the design
24 review of all state construction projects; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
27 include an analysis of:
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- 29 (1) The costs and benefits of requiring the State
30 Architect to:
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- 1 (A) Review all plans, drawings, specifications, and
2 any other documents necessary for state
3 construction projects;
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- 5 (B) Ensure project conformance with all applicable
6 building codes and county, national, or
7 international prescriptive construction
8 standards, including construction, electrical,
9 energy conservation, plumbing, and sidewalk
10 standards;
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- 12 (C) Issue design approvals for traditional
13 design-bid-build state construction projects
14 awarded by competitive sealed bidding pursuant to
15 section 103D-302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, before
16 the projects commence; provided that no design
17 approvals shall be required for design-build
18 projects, as defined in section 103D-104, Hawaii
19 Revised Statutes, or public-private partnership
20 projects; and
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- 22 (D) Assign an inspector to each state construction
23 project to observe the work of construction; and
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- 25 (2) The costs and benefits of employing or contracting
26 with qualified architects and engineers, without
27 regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
28 necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities
29 of the Office of the State Architect;
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- 31 (3) The costs of all design review services to be
32 performed by the Office of the State Architect for
33 state agencies and the reasonable amount of fees to be
34 charged to state agencies to defray the cost of
35 processing design approvals; and
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- 37 (4) The costs of establishing one full-time equivalent
38 (1.0 FTE) State Architect position and any additional
39 full-time equivalent positions within the Office of
40 the State Architect necessary to implement and
41 administer the Office; and
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