

MAR 10 2026

SENATE 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
4

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
10

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,
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
19 that the Department of Accounting and General Services is
20 requested to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of
21 creating within the Department an Office of the State Architect
22 headed by a full-time State Architect having general charge and
23 oversight of the design review of all state construction
24 projects; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
27 include an analysis of:
28

29 (1) The costs and benefits of requiring the State
30 Architect to:

31
32 (A) Review all plans, drawings, specifications, and
33 any other documents necessary for state
34 construction projects;
35



- 1 (B) Ensure project conformance with all applicable
2 building codes and county, national, or
3 international prescriptive construction
4 standards, including construction, electrical,
5 energy conservation, plumbing, and sidewalk
6 standards;
7
- 8 (C) Issue design approvals for traditional
9 design-bid-build state construction projects
10 awarded by competitive sealed bidding pursuant to
11 section 103D-302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, before
12 the projects commence; provided that no design
13 approvals shall be required for design-build
14 projects, as defined in section 103D-104, Hawaii
15 Revised Statutes, or public-private partnership
16 projects; and
17
- 18 (D) Assign an inspector to each state construction
19 project to observe the work of construction; and
20
- 21 (2) The costs and benefits of employing or contracting
22 with qualified architects and engineers, without
23 regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
24 necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities
25 of the Office of the State Architect;
26
- 27 (3) The costs of all design review services to be
28 performed by the Office of the State Architect for
29 state agencies and the reasonable amount of fees to be
30 charged to state agencies to defray the cost of
31 processing design approvals; and
32
- 33 (4) The costs of establishing one full-time equivalent
34 (1.0 FTE) State Architect position and any additional
35 full-time equivalent positions within the Office of
36 the State Architect necessary to implement and
37 administer the Office; and
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
40 and General Services is requested to submit a report of its
41 findings and recommendations, including any proposed



