

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'AINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 2, 2026, 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2543, S.D. 2, H.D. 2

RELATING TO STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2543, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) provides **support with comments** on S.B. 2543, S.D. 2, H.D. 2 which establishes within the Office of the Comptroller a five-year Office of the Construction Manager (Office) pilot program headed by a full-time State Construction Manager, to provide guidance and recommendations on the design of state construction projects administered by DAGS and the Department of Education (DOE). This measure requires the Office to assign employees to certain county agencies to review and approve permit applications under the Pilot Program. This measure provides for the establishment of a design review special fund and positions. In

addition, this measure requires the Comptroller, in consultation with the State Construction Manager, to adopt rules to implement this measure no later than December 31, 2027. The Comptroller must also submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature before the regular sessions of 2027 to 2031. Lastly, this measure requires the dissolution of the Office of the State Construction Manager on June 30, 2031.

We would recommend the following changes to the measure:

1. On page 2, lines 4 through 9: [~~“the state construction manager shall provide guidance and recommendations on the design review of state construction projects with an estimated design value of \$2,000,000 or more administered by the department of accounting and general services and the department of education. The office of the”~~] the state construction manager shall provide guidance and recommendations on the design review of new state construction projects, as of January 1, 2028, with an estimated design value of \$2,000,000 or more administered by the department of accounting and general services and the department of education. The office of the state construction manager shall:
2. On page 2, lines 18 through 21: [~~“any changes to the final plans, drawings, specifications, or other documents shall require resubmittal to the disability and communication access board for review”~~] all plans, drawings, specifications, and any other documents necessary for state construction projects subject to review by the disability and communication access board shall be completed within 15 days of receipt; failure to meet this deadline shall result in the recordation of a “no comments received” designation for the project by the

- disability and communication access board;”
3. On page 3, lines 7 through 20: [~~(4) Assign employees to the: (A) Department of public works of the county of Hawaii; (B) Department of public works of the county of Kauai; (C) Department of public works of the county of Maui; and (D) Department of planning and permitting of the city and county of Honolulu, who shall have the sole responsibility of reviewing and approving permit applications submitted for state construction projects administered by the department of accounting and general services and the department of education. The county agencies under this”, and continued on page 4, lines 1 through 2: [“paragraph shall not assign any other work to these employees.”]~~ Provide support to each county, through funding provided by the state, for the establishment of positions within each respective county specifically to process and issue permits for state projects.
 4. On page 4, lines 3 through 6: [~~“(f) The department of education may opt into the pilot program for specific complex projects and shall not be required to subject all of its capital improvement projects to the review process set forth in subsection (e).”~~]
 5. On page 5, lines 8 through 10: [~~“No funds appropriated to the department of education for operating expenses or capital improvements shall be diverted or used to finance or support the design review special fund.”~~]
 6. On page 7, line 4: “...the sum of \$12,500,000 or so....”
 7. On page 7, lines 12 through 21: [~~“full-time equivalent (_____ FTE) positions within the office of the state construction manager, including _____ full-time~~

~~equivalent (— FTE) positions to be assigned to the: (A) Department of public works of the county of Hawaii; (B) Department of public works of the county of Kauai; (C) Department of public works of the county of Maui; and”]~~ in addition, on page 8, lines 1 through 2: [~~“(D) Department of planning and permitting of the city and county of Honolulu.”]~~ Full-time equivalent positions not to exceed 90 FTE within the office of the state construction manager including support for positions with each of the four counties dependent on the needs for each respective jurisdiction provided that positions shall be funded through the office of the state construction manager but shall be employees of each respective county and shall be restricted to working on only state permits within each respective jurisdiction; provided further that each county shall provide a quarterly report to the office of the state construction manager as prescribed by the department of accounting and general services.”

The above changes will be necessary in order for the department to effectively move forward with the intent and purpose of this measure. We appreciate the committee’s support of these changes.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/02/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: FIN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2543, HD2, RELATING TO STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a five-year Office of the State Construction Manager Pilot Program to provide guidance and recommendations on the design review of certain state construction projects administered by the Department of Accounting and General Services and Department of Education. Requires the Office to assign employees to the certain county agencies to review and approve permit applications under the Pilot Program. Establishes the Design Review Special Fund. Appropriates funds for the Pilot Program and necessary positions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the Legislature's intent to improve coordination and efficiency of state construction projects through the establishment of an Office of the State Construction Manager Pilot Program.

The Department supports the current form of the bill and appreciates the following added amendments:

- The Department of Education may opt into the pilot program for specific complex projects and shall not be required to subject all of its capital improvement projects to the review process, and
- No funds appropriated to the Department of Education for operating expenses or capital improvements shall be diverted or used to finance or support the design review special fund.

The Department is especially supportive of empowering counties to expedite review and approval of permit applications submitted for state construction projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2543, SD 2, HD 2.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
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DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR
PO'O

BRYAN GALLAGHER, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

REGINA MALEPEAI
2ND DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O KUALUA

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 2, 2026
Conference Room 308

TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair, The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL NO. 2543, SD 2, HD 1, HD 2, RELATING TO
STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on Senate Bill No. 2543, SD 2, HD 1, HD 2, which establishes a five-year Office of the State Construction Manager Pilot Program to provide guidance and recommendations on the design review of certain state construction projects administered by the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and Department of Education (DOE). This Bill also requires the Office to assign employees to the certain county agencies to review and approve permit applications under the Pilot Program.

The DPP appreciates the intent of this measure, which is to expedite State construction projects by dedicating staff to DPP for the sole purpose of reviewing and approving State building permits. Unfortunately, while well-intended, this Bill fails to grasp and understand what is involved in the permit review process and the number of people from various technical disciplines that are involved, from intake clerks and plan reviewers (building, plumbing, electrical) to land use/zoning staff and inspectors from the various disciplines and fields. The measure also does not acknowledge the numerous agencies outside of DPP, including, but not limited to, the Honolulu Fire Department, Board of Water Supply, Department of Health, and the State Historic Preservation Division, that review permit applications independently of DPP and add to the DPP permit processing timeline.

It also is unclear who will determine the qualifications of the proposed plan reviewers and who will employ them. There is no information regarding the minimum

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance
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number of years of code compliance review experience required and/or expertise necessary to oversee technical disciplines including, but not limited to, licensure status of the proposed staff. Historically, DPP has a very difficult time hiring staff with the requisite experience and skills necessary to efficiently process permit applications and there is no indication State- provided staff would have the necessary experience and skills required to assist DPP in the challenge.

This Bill would allow the State Construction Manager to hire staff, including architects and engineers. This measure also allocates funds for a yet-to-be-determined number of full-time positions that would then be assigned to the DPP. We estimate that at least one full-time position would be required in each of the following areas of plan review:

- Commercial-review coordinator
- Research Branch
- Building Code Branch
- Electrical Code Branch
- Mechanical Code Branch
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Services Branch (NPDES)
- Zoning Plan Review Branch
- Permit Issuance Branch-Residential Code Branch
- Civil Engineering Branch Permitting/Inspection Section
- Civil Engineering Branch-Project Review Section
- Wastewater Branch
- Subdivision Branch (FEMA).

This list does not include planners in our Land Use Permits Division who check for a project's compliance with the land use code.

As an alternative consideration, this allocation of funds might be better spent to hire the full complement of staff for a State Building Permit Office under the State Construction Manager to review and approve permits for State projects. For discussion only, this model could theoretically place the entire permit process for State projects under one State agency, which would be able to control the speed at which State permits are reviewed, issued and closed. A State Building Permit Office also would help take the burden off DPP staff, as we currently process an average of 280 State applications annually.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance
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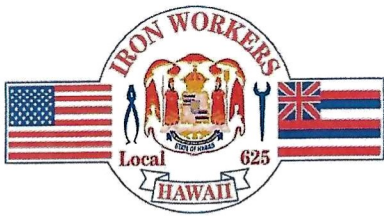
There is much involved in reviewing, approving and closing a permit. DPP's primary regulatory goal is the health and safety of those who occupy a structure, and efficient but careful review of plans is of utmost importance. We welcome opportunities to expedite State projects and my understanding is the City Managing Director spoke with leadership at DAGS and requested a list of all State projects so he could begin working with DPP on improved processing of State project permits. We continue to look for solutions in collaboration with the State and are willing to meet and discuss.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director



Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris
Managing Director

March 17, 2026

Chair Chris Todd
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
House Committee on Finance
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB 2543, SD2, HD2 – RELATING TO STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Hearing Date: April 2, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Iron Workers Stabilization Fund in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2543, SD2, HD2 – RELATING TO STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. This legislation would establish an independent state construction manager tasked with organizing, managing, and overseeing all state construction projects. This bill represents a commonsense reform that will improve state project delivery and reduce waste on taxpayer-funded construction work.

Hawaii's public construction projects have consistently experienced delays, cost overruns, and change orders resulting from fragmented oversight. Mistakes in design and insufficient manpower for continued review of projects in the process often result in wasted time, materials, disputes, and contested claims that ultimately increase costs — sometimes dramatically — at the expense of Hawaii's residents and businesses. A unified oversight framework, led by a central and independent state construction manager with professional experience, will help prevent inefficiencies before and during construction and prevent continuous change orders.

By centralizing design oversight, SB 2543, SD2, HD2 will promote:

- **Consistency and Quality Control** – A state construction manager with expertise in planning, supervising projects and construction budgets will ensure that all state projects meet consistent standards and compliance with bidding.

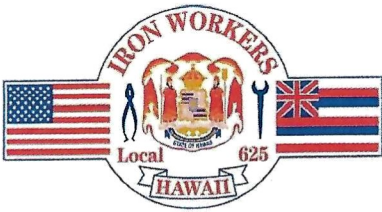


Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

- **Transparency and Accountability** – The state construction manager will assist in ensuring one central point of communication between architects, engineers and workers to ensure accountability. The annual report required by the bill will provide the Legislature and the public with insight into how state projects are performing, helping to inform better budgeting and planning.
- **Better Use of Skilled Labor** – When state projects are well designed and coordinated, union craftworkers can work efficiently and safely, maximizing productivity and minimizing idle time caused by design conflicts or changes.

In addition, we have been working with DAGS on proposed amendments included in DAGS's testimony and below:

1. On page 2, lines 4 through 9: [~~“the state construction manager shall provide guidance and recommendations on the design review of state construction projects with an estimated design value of \$2,000,000 or more administered by the department of accounting and general services and the department of education. The office of the”~~] the state construction manager shall provide guidance and recommendations on the design review of new state construction projects, as of January 1, 2028, with an estimated design value of \$2,000,000 or more administered by the department of accounting and general services and the department of education. The office of the state construction manager shall.”
2. On page 2, lines 18 through 21: [~~“any changes to the final plans, drawings, specifications, or other documents shall require resubmittal to the disability and communication access board for review”~~] all plans, drawings, specifications, and any other documents necessary for state construction projects subject to review by the disability and communication access board shall be completed within 15 days of receipt; failure to meet this deadline shall result in the recordation of a “no comments received” designation for the project by the disability and communication access board;
3. On page 3, lines 7 through 20: [~~(4) Assign employees to the: (A) Department of public works of the county of Hawaii; (B) Department of public works of the county of Kauai; (C) Department of public works of the county of Maui; and (D) Department of planning and permitting of the city and county of Honolulu, who shall have the sole responsibility of reviewing and approving permit applications submitted for state construction projects administered by the department of accounting and general services and the department of education. The county agencies under this”, and continued on page 4, lines 1 through 2: [“paragraph shall not assign any other work to these employees.”]~~] Provide support to each county, through funding provided by



Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

the state, for the establishment of positions within each respective county specifically to process and issue permits for state projects.

4. On page 4, lines 3 through 6: [~~“(f) The department of education may opt into the pilot program for specific complex projects and shall not be required to subject all of its capital improvement projects to the review process set forth in subsection (e).”~~]
5. On page 5, lines 8 through 10: [~~“No funds appropriated to the department of education for operating expenses or capital improvements shall be diverted or used to finance or support the design review special fund.”~~]
6. On page 7, line 4: “...the sum of \$12,500,000 or so....”
7. On page 7, lines 12 through 21: [~~“full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the office of the state construction manager, including full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to be assigned to the: (A) Department of public works of the county of Hawaii; (B) Department of public works of the county of Kauai; (C) Department of public works of the county of Maui; and”~~] in addition, on page 8, lines 1 through 2: [~~“(D) Department of planning and permitting of the city and county of Honolulu.”~~] Full-time equivalent positions not to exceed 90 FTE within the office of the state construction manager including support for positions with each of the four counties dependent on the needs for each respective jurisdiction provided that positions shall be funded through the office of the state construction manager but shall be employees of each respective county and shall be restricted to working on only state permits within each respective jurisdiction; provided further that each county shall provide a quarterly report to the office of the state construction manager as prescribed by the department of accounting and general services.”

Hawaii's taxpayers deserve assurance that state construction dollars are spent wisely. SB 2543, SD2, HD2's establishment of a professional and independent state construction manager is a proactive step toward reducing waste on public projects and ensuring that the final product reflects thoughtful planning and stewardship of public funds. At the same time, this reform supports quality workmanship and good union jobs by decreasing unnecessary disruptions and improving project predictability.

Accordingly we recommend the committee pass an HD3 version including the proposed amendments. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

T. George Paris
Managing Director

March 31, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB 2543, HD2 – Relating to State Construction Projects

Hearing Date: April 2, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Iron Worker’s Stabilization Fund in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2543, HD2. This bill is an important step toward improving the efficiency and fiscal discipline of state construction projects by establishing a centralized State Construction Manager.

From the perspective of construction workers who build state projects every day, one of the largest sources of public waste is not labor or materials — it is budgeting overruns, inconsistent oversight, and avoidable project delays. Too often, state construction projects move forward without clear accountability for schedules, sequencing, constructability, or coordination among agencies, designers, and contractors. When no single entity is responsible for managing the construction process holistically, inefficiencies compound and costs escalate.

SB 2543, HD2 directly addresses this problem by creating a State Construction Manager whose role is focused on managing projects from a construction standpoint, not just on paper. A dedicated construction manager brings practical, real-world understanding of how projects are built — ensuring that timelines are realistic, scopes are coordinated, and construction issues are identified early on.

Centralized construction management reduces waste by minimizing change orders, work stoppages, and rework caused by miscommunication or poor sequencing. When construction is properly managed, labor and materials are used efficiently, and projects are far less likely to experience costly delays that burden taxpayers. This approach promotes smarter use of public funds without sacrificing quality or safety.

The bill’s emphasis on reporting and transparency further strengthens accountability. By requiring regular reporting on project performance, SB 2543, HD2 allows policymakers to better understand where delays and cost overruns occur and how future projects can be

improved. This level of oversight helps ensure that state construction dollars are spent as intended and that systemic problems are corrected rather than repeated.

For construction workers, effective project management means safer job sites, clearer direction, and more predictable work schedules. For the public, it means schools, hospitals, and infrastructure projects that are delivered on time and within budget. SB 2543, HD2 aligns these interests by focusing on construction management as a tool to prevent waste before it happens, rather than reacting after costs have already ballooned.

We have been working with DAGS on proposed amendments and support the amendments proposed in Comptroller Keith Regan's testimony. Accordingly, we strongly urge this committee to pass an HD3 version of SB 2543, HD2 with the proposed amendments in support of Hawai'i's working men and women.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Iosua". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael L. Iosua

OCG LLC

Onipa'a Consulting Group 3535 Maluhia Street * Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 * Phone (808) 808*381*9529

March 31, 2026

Chair Chris Todd
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
House Committee on Finance

RE: SB 2543, SD2, HD2 - Relating to State Construction Projects

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Iron Worker's Stabilization Fund in **Support** of HB 2543, SD2, HD2. In summary, the bill is intended to centralize State construction projects under the responsibility of the State Construction Manager to promote efficiency, consistency, transparency and fiscal accountability.

Currently many state projects are developed and managed in silos throughout many individual State Departments which often lack the expertise to properly develop and manage complex projects. Departments may have expertise in engineering and design, however, lack project management and fiscal oversight or vice versa leading to project time delays and cost overruns.

We recognize that staffing shortages among the Departments also contribute to ineffective project implementations. Many of the staffing shortages are results of vacant positions being unfunded or unfilled. Many of the positions required for the Office of the State Construction Manager already exist within Departments and consolidation into one central agency will leverage resources without dramatically increasing costs, promoting consistency and efficiency.

We have been working with the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) throughout this process to address their concerns and comments, and support proposed amendments included in their testimony.

Our hope is that savings from projected efficiencies and fiscal oversight of state projects included in this bill can then be passed on to the taxpayers of the State of Hawaii in other ways to help relieve them from the high cost of living and keep local families from leaving the State.

It is not unreasonable for taxpayers to ask for projects to be delivered on a timely and cost-effective basis, and SB 2543, SB2, HD2 is working in the right direction. For these reasons we ask the committee to pass SB 2543 SD2 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary T. Kurokawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary T. Kurokawa



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS ON SB 2543, SD2 HD2
Relating to State Construction Projects**

Before the House Committee on Finance

Honorable Todd Chris, Chair
Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

April 2, 2026

Submitted by:
Legislative Advocacy Committee
American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council

Position: Support with Comments

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hawaii State Council
828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813

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contact@aiahonolulu.org
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Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on **SB 2543, SD2, HD2**. AIA Hawai'i appreciates the amendments made to date, including the requirement that the state construction manager hold a valid license under chapter 464, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for at least five years, and the clarification that assigned county employees would review and approve permit applications for covered state construction projects, specifically for DAGS and DOE.

However, AIA Hawai'i continues to have concerns regarding the bill's application to the design phase of state projects. As drafted, the bill authorizes the Office of the State Construction Manager to review plans, drawings, specifications, and other design documents and to provide centralized design review services for state construction projects. In AIA Hawai'i's view, **this role is not appropriate for the State's typical design-bid-build projects**, where design is completed before construction begins and before a contractor is in place. Adding another layer of design-phase review in those projects would likely increase review time, extend project schedules, and add cost without improving project delivery.

AIA Hawai'i recognizes that a construction manager may have a more meaningful coordination role on projects using a design-build delivery method, where design and construction activities overlap. Accordingly, AIA Hawai'i respectfully requests that the Committee either remove the Office of the State Construction Manager from the design review process for design-bid-build projects or expressly limit the pilot program to design-build projects.

Accordingly, because this measure is now at a later stage of the legislative process, AIA Hawai'i respectfully offers the following specific amendments for the Committee's consideration:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 2543, SD2, HD2

1. Amend subsection 1(e)(1) by deleting it in its entirety, unless the bill is expressly limited to design-build project delivery.

2. Amend subsection 1(e)(2) as follows:

“(2) Provide [~~exclusive centralized design review services~~] coordination services for state construction projects utilizing a design-build project delivery method for state construction projects subject to this section, as authorized by the applicable state agency.”

3. Amend subsection 1(j) as follows:

“(j) No later than December 31, 2027, the comptroller, in consultation with the state construction manager, shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement this section, including rules limiting the role of the office of the state construction manager to project types and delivery methods for which that role is appropriate.”

4. Insert a new subsection after subsection (m) to read as follows:

“The pilot program shall apply only to projects utilizing the design-build project delivery method, unless otherwise expressly authorized by law.”

AIA Hawai'i supports the intent to improve public project delivery and interagency coordination. With the above comments, this measure as is would only improve efficiency for Design-Build projects while hampering the efficiency efforts of the design professional necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare during Design-Bid-Build project delivery methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui,



Reid Mizue, AIA
AIA Hawaii Legislative Advocacy Committee

Finance Chair, Vice Chair, committee members

SB2543 SD2 HD2 – Relating to State Construction projects

Milton Nitta is opposed to the creation of the Office of the State Construction Manager pilot program.

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1525-26 states, "the office of the State Construction Manager, which would bring practical real-world understanding of how projects are built, ensuring that timelines are realistic, scopes are coordinated, and construction issues are identified as soon as possible." However, this Bill does not reflect these goals. This Bill only mandates that the Construction Manager "Review all plans, drawings, specifications, and any other documents necessary for State construction projects," and "Assign an inspector" to observe the construction work. The DAGS CIP workflow chart has 125 action blocks, one related to final project document review and one for jobsite inspection. So, this Construction Manager will participate in only two of the 125 workflow activities, these 2 are currently being done so the work by this Construction Manager is "REDUNDANT."

I agree with the Trade Unions testimonies that the process must be made better.

I propose that this Bill create a task force similar to SPEED – Simplify Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development, established by Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025.

Please establish an "Improve Construction Efficiency" (ICE) task force. ICE can be represented by:

1. State Executive, Legislative and Judicial
2. State Agencies that currently manage construction projects. DAGS, DOE, UH, DOT, Hawaiian Homelands.
3. Industry and Private sectors. Trade Unions, AIA, General Contractor Associations, and construction materials suppliers.
4. Other Government agencies. US Army Corps of Engineers, Navy construction OICC, and County construction related offices like DPP.

In a December 2025 report, the SPEED task force recommended additional training and professional development for State and County permitting agency employees.

I recommend that this Bill provide training and professional development for the DAGS Construction Management Branch personnel. I anticipate that the ICE task force will recommend many changes that will improve the quality and costs of our State of Hawaii construction projects.

Thank you for letting me testify.

Milton Nitta

Retired Construction Engineer