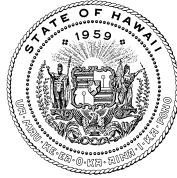


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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 LABOR

APRIL 16, 2026, 9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 177

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO CONVENE A COOPERATIVE WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS STATE PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE COUNTY PERMITTING.

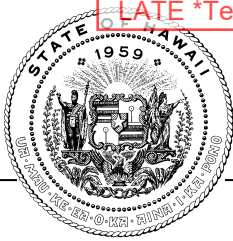
Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.C.R. 177.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** this resolution convening a cooperative working group to address state projects that require county permitting.

There has been significant interest in this subject area for several years, and convening a working group to proactively address the issues surrounding county permitting of state projects will be useful. However, the department is concerned that this measure does not identify funding to support convening of the working group and to report on the group's deliberations. Without such funding, the department's efforts to

support and participate in the working group will necessarily divert limited resources from accomplishing the department's statutory responsibilities. Therefore, the department requests that the measure recommend an independent source of funding to provide that support.

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



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
Thursday, April 16, 2026, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
SCR 177
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO CONVENE A COOPERATIVE WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS STATE
PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE COUNTY PERMITTING.

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Committee on Labor.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports SCR 177**, which requests the Department of Accounting and General Services to convene a cooperative working group to address state projects that require county permitting.

Hawai'i's state-led infrastructure and development projects often face considerable delays during the permit approval process at the county level. These bottlenecks create significant obstacles to the timely completion of public works and hinder the State's ability to respond to urgent community needs and ultimately increase project costs.

Streamlining these processes is particularly important for the delivery of affordable housing. In order to deliver housing faster through projects such as those financed by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), we should actively reduce these administrative delays. The work of the Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) Task Force has already highlighted the need for better coordination between the State and the counties. Establishing a clear, unified framework to streamline permit processes for State projects is essential to ensure that public funds are used efficiently and that housing can be delivered to residents on shorter timelines.

OPSD believes that a working group is the optimal forum for identifying these systemic friction points and developing collaborative solutions that respect both state objectives and county regulatory oversight. **OPSD stands ready to participate in this working group**, and we look forward to working with the other group members to address this issue and develop actionable recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.