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H.B. NO. 96

A Bill for an Act Establishing an Advisory Committee to Study Overlapping State and County Functions.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Findings and Purpose. The legislature finds that, although the State is responsible for statewide concerns and the county governments are responsible for local concerns, the state and county governments have concurrent jurisdiction over functions or programs that frequently overlap. For example, each jurisdiction exercises responsibility for parks, public highways, land use planning, housing programs, water systems, protection of witnesses, and compensation for victims of crime.

Most recently, the Commission on Organization of Government has studied the feasibility of consolidating overlapping functions performed by both the state and county governments. The fiscal constraints of the state and county governments make it imperative that governmental services be delivered in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. Consolidation of some of the functions at one level of government, when appropriate, may promote the desired efficiency and effectiveness.

The purpose of this Act is to establish an advisory committee to study overlapping state and county functions, and to make appropriate recommendations.

SECTION 2. There is established an advisory committee which shall consist of five members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, five members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, and one member from each county council appointed by the respective county council chairman. A vacancy on the advisory committee shall be filled by the initial appointing authority. The advisory committee shall establish its own procedures. The committee shall convene at regular monthly meetings to study overlapping state and county functions and recommend consolidation of those functions which, by such consolidation, would be delivered in the most efficient and cost-effective manner at one level of government.

SECTION 3. The advisory committee shall solicit information and viewpoints from the governor, the mayors of each of the county governments,

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the affected state and county departments, and the public. The advisory committee shall also review and update the study relating to the consolidation of overlapping state and county functions compiled by the Commission on Organization of Government.

SECTION 4. The advisory committee shall prepare and submit an interim report to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 1986. The advisory committee shall prepare and submit a final report containing its findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 1987. Upon the filing of the final report, the advisory committee shall be dissolved.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 14, 1985.)