

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

July 3, 2020

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

For Hearing on Monday, July 6, 2020
10:05 a.m., State Capitol, Auditorium

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

Senate Resolution 83 Proposed SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of Senate Resolution 83 SD1 is to request the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) to convene a task force to review the functions and operations of the State Government and identify and make recommendations regarding any functions or operations that can be modified in a cost-effective manner to meet the changing needs of the public.

DHRD **supports the intent** of the resolution and offers comments for consideration.

The subject matter proposed for the task force may be overly broad and ambitious. As noted above, the proposed task force is charged with reviewing the “functions and operations of the state government and identifying and making recommendations regarding any functions or operations that can be modified in a cost-effective manner to meet the changing needs of the public.” While this is a laudable concept, it may be challenging to manage a task force with such broad goals.

While Senate Resolution 83 SD1 is aimed at State Government and seeks to include impacted parties, the statutes that govern State operations also affect all of the varied jurisdictions statewide, including the counties, the Department of Education, the University of Hawaii, and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Furthermore, any recommended modifications to State Government would also likely affect the other public sector unions including the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, and the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly. If modifications to statutes are recommended, this may also affect the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers. If this task force is to propose modifications in a cost-effective manner, it may be prudent to include a representative from the Department of Budget and Finance as well.

We suggest including representatives of each of these interested parties in the resolution's composition of the task force.

DHRD notes that through the negotiations process and everyday operations, many of the stated goals of this task force are already being accomplished, including the exchange of ideas and information, the review of functions and operations of state government and the constant process of striving for greater efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent and to provide comments on this resolution.

July 6, 2020

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Gil Keith Agaran, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Resolution 83, Proposed Draft 1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and members of the committee:

Transform Hawaii Government strongly supports promoting and enhancing efficient and effective state government, improving access for citizens across the state of Hawaii. Reviewing the services that state government provides with an eye toward improving them by employing technology when appropriate and being mindful of the increased demands for a digital government caused by the worldwide pandemic are key elements of an efficient and effective state government. We commend the state Senate for considering Senate Resolution 83, Proposed Draft 1, requesting the Department of Human Resources Development to convene a task force to review the functions and operations of the state government and identify, and make recommendations regarding, any functions or operations that can be modified in a cost-effective manner to meet the changing needs of the public. Please support this resolution.

The worldwide pandemic has underscored the deficiencies in Hawaii's ability to digitally deliver core government services. We have collectively been challenged to ensure broadband access and the availability of digital devices necessary to educate our public school children. Aged technology infrastructure created significant hurdles in deploying unemployment insurance benefits. All of our citizens need and deserve access to core government services when and where they are needed.

The state's Hawaii Information Technology Strategic Plan was recently developed with input from stakeholders including the staff at State Office of Enterprise Technology Services, the State Information Technology Steering Committee, representatives from departmental business and IT staff, and members of the community. The final plan was approved by the state Information Technology Steering Committee for implementation. A digitally connected citizenry with access to government services is a key foundational premise of the plan. Passage of Senate Resolution 83, Proposed Draft 1, is a next step toward implementing the Plan.

Transform Hawaii Government is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to improving government services and business practices through technology to ensure that policymakers, State employees, local residents and businesses have convenient and secure access to reliable information and data. We applaud the legislature for recognizing the needs of our community and moving forward to address those needs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Sakuda
Executive Director
Transform Hawaii Government
email: csakuda@TransformHawaiiGov.org | phone: (808) 321-2811