

SB

382

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

SB 382 - RELATING TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY

Strongly Support

PUBLIC HEARING

1:15 pm

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Conference Room 325

My name is Shannon Wood, a resident of Kailua, O`ahu, speaking on my own behalf and not representing any organization, in strong support of **SB 382 - RELATING TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY.**

Throughout the year I attend a number of monthly meetings of the *Stadium Authority* and have tracked its decisions closely for many years. I believe that modifying and reducing the power of an incumbent governor would work best in making sure that all the *Stadium Authority's* decisions are made with the best interests of the people first and not because a particular person is the governor to whom *Authority* members may hold a particular political allegiance.

For example, in a couple of weeks you will voting on five appointees to the *Stadium Authority* - all incumbents - who will be around for years after the current governor has left office. If reconfirmed, that will have a profound impact on their decision-making on everything from transit-oriented development to building a replacement stadium somewhere on O`ahu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 382 - RELATING TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY.**



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES**

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COMMENTS
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
AND
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON
TOURISM, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES
ON
April 24, 2009

S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed)

RELATING TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY

Chair Fukunaga, Co-Chairs Manahan and Ito, and members of the Committees, DAGS would like to offer comments on S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed). As written, S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed) changes previous versions of the bill and attempts to expand the Stadium Authority's voting membership by four, including two existing nonvoting ex-officio members plus two new members representing specific interest groups.

DAGS understands the desire to have more points of view represented on the Stadium Authority Board but opposes this bill because its proposed changes are not necessary to ensure that all relevant points of view are considered in Board meetings. The nine current members are nominated by the Governor to ensure that there is an effective cross section of community interests represented on the Board.

Under the proposed changes in S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed), DAGS believes that three of the four new voting members would regularly have potential conflicts of interests as they, the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Education, and

the representative of the Swap Meet vendors, are major users of the Stadium facilities in ways that may conflict with each other and the interests of the Stadium at large.

Furthermore, Stadium Authority meetings can run long at times, and deliberations can be extensive. It is manageable with nine voting members but will be less so with thirteen. And, there are no clear advantages to be gained with thirteen voting members than with nine.

In short, although S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed) is different from previous versions of the bill, it offers no advantages that would offset the complications of implementing it or providing oversight over, and managing Aloha Stadium operations. If there are objectives that S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed) seeks that are of concern to the conference committees, a fresh start during a future legislative session would be preferable to passing this bill in its current form. DAGS' view is that this bill should be held.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on S.B. 382, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 (Proposed).