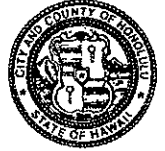


SB98



Hawaii State Association of Counties

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu



February 10, 2009

Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations
The Senate
State of Hawaii

Testimony of
Nestor Garcia, President, Hawaii State Association of Counties
Senate Bill 98
Regular Session 2009

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Judiciary & Government Operations Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 98.

In the current climate of economic austerity and fiscal uncertainty, municipalities across the country are seeking an array of tools to help them weather this storm. The counties of Hawaii are no different. One tool that could be of tremendous value in reducing costs is our memberships in the National Association of Counties (NACo) through cooperative contracts.

If, for example, a large NACo member municipality elsewhere uses its purchasing power to obtain goods at low price that is made available through a cooperative contract, county governments in Hawaii cannot take advantage of that option without an amendment to Chapter 103D-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as proposed in this measure.

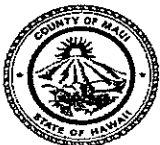
The Hawaii State Association of Counties believes that local governments are in the best position to assess their individual needs and the needs of their constituents. This option would provide local governments with another tool to help reduce costs and save taxpayer dollars while still purchasing necessary goods and services.

We firmly believe that local governments are fully capable of making competent, ethical decisions on whether and when to use a cooperative contract on behalf of its citizens.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, and I look forward to further discussions.

Aloha,

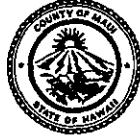
COUNCILMEMBER NESTOR GARCIA
President, Hawaii State Association of Counties
Vice Chair, Honolulu City Council



Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Michael J. Molina

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Jo Anne Johnson
Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala
Bill Kauakea Medeiros
Wayne K. Nishiki
Joseph Pontanilla
Michael P. Victorino



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.maui-county.gov/council

February 10, 2009

TO: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

FROM: Joseph Pontanilla, Treasurer
Hawaii State Association of Counties *Joseph Pontanilla*

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2009; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 98,
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to remove the requirement that local governments comply with rules adopted by the Procurement Policy Board and to place the decision-making power to use cooperative contracts within the discretion of local governments.

I am aware that the President of the Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) has submitted testimony, on behalf of HSAC, in support of this measure, which is in the HSAC Legislative Package. As the Treasurer of HSAC, I concur with the testimony submitted by the President, and urge you to support this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:09legis:09testimony: sb98_paf09-034a_ghr