

Date: 02/06/2009

Committee: Senate Economic
Development and Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title of Bill: SB 0830(AGS-01)

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES TECHNOLOGY.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Shared Services Technology Special Fund to allow departments and agencies to pool resources for common technology systems, hardware, and software.

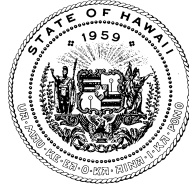
Companion: HB1012

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 830 and believes that the bill should be clarified in two important areas:

1. The wording does not clearly state that participation by departments and agencies is voluntary, so we recommend that this be clearly stated.
2. We also recommend that the structure of the fund and department participation be defined more specifically, to clarify that departments can elect to participate in only those specific technology areas that are relevant to their needs. For example, a volume purchase of licenses for a specific vendor's database product may be relevant to some departments and not at all applicable to others. Similarly, a department that may have already made a significant investment in an application or a technology should not have to contribute to a fund that is spending money in that area which will not benefit the department at all.

There are definitely many potential technology areas of common interest where multiple departments and agencies will want to participate in the fund and the benefits. However, to make this work in a manner that will encourage participation, we believe that the structure should be changed as indicated to allow departments to align their participation to their needs.

The DOE very much looks forward to working with the Department of Accounting and General Services and other state departments in identifying opportunities for applying the shared technology concepts and the proposed fund to obtain efficiencies not otherwise possible.



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February 6, 2009

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
SENATE BILL NO. 830,
RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES TECHNOLOGY.

This Administration Measure will establish a Shared Services Technology Special Fund, which will allow departments and agencies to pool resources for common technology systems, hardware, and software.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill.

The DOT is often looked to for funding and initiation of shared services in the information technology sector (IT). However, federal requirements limit our ability to fulfill this expectation. This bill empowers all State agencies – special funded, federally funded, and especially general funded – to collaborate financially and technologically in the advancement of IT. By the creation of the described special fund, the development and maintenance of shared services could be sufficiently financed. This would in turn eliminate duplication of services among some agencies, and benefit other agencies that would not have been able to afford the services in the first place.

Services to the public, such as the furnishing of digitized maps, on-line permitting, and making government information available on-line, could be sustained and even improved. Economies of scale realized through the pooling of each agency's needs in hardware and software licenses could be leveraged for healthier competition. Most of all, by collaborating towards shared disaster recovery facilities, services can continue post-disaster, with the assurance that databases in the various agencies can still "talk" to each other as they do today.

Thank you for considering this testimony.