

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor



GEORGE Y. TENGAN
Director

ERIC H. YAMASHIGE, P.E., L.S.
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
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LATE

February 7, 2006

Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members of the Senate Intergovernmental
Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members of the Senate Transportation and Government
Operations Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Inouye and Members:

Subject: **SB 2909 Relating to Permit Approvals**
Hearing: Tuesday, 2/7/06, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

As Director of the Department of Water Supply, County of Maui, I am in support of the subject bill. For a number of years now, we have not been successful in recruiting civil engineers to review plans and permits. As a result, our backlog of work is often eight months to a year. In our recruitment efforts, we have offered the full range in the salary schedules. We are now going into a "signing bonus" program to offer recruits up to \$5,000 to come on board. The bonus will be paid in two parts; 50% or \$2,500 after completion of the probationary period and the remainder after one year of employment. However, the fact is we are still short of civil engineers, five vacancies out of 12 authorized positions.

In addition to this bill, we would also need to amend our existing ordinances. Currently, the Maui county code provides for automatic approval 45 days after submittal for review and approval. With the passage of this bill, we intend to submit an amendment to the County Council to allow the county to opt out of the automatic permit

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Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
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approval law by adopting an ordinance to exempt the county as a whole or any county agency from the law.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and the opportunity to offer testimony.

Very truly yours,


GEORGE Y. TENGAN, Director
Department of Water Supply
County of Maui

cc: Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor
Keith A. Regan, Managing Director
Milton M. Arakawa, DPWEM Director
Alva Nakamura, Engineering Program Manager