

TO: Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator David Ige, Chair and Committee Members

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Testimony in Strong Support of Task Force to Provide for a Comprehensive Study of State and Counties tax and revenue systems and policies.

Aloha and mahalo for hearing SCR 191 and HR 126. It is my strong opinion that these resolutions should pass your committee with the utmost speed.

There are others testifying before you today with the nuts and bolts of the history of these resolutions. They will reiterate the financial crisis of Hawaii citizens due to the dramatically increasing property taxes. And they will highlight the many aspects of taxation and government budgets that are in the fullest understanding of the issues. I recognize and support those testimonies.

My concern is that the complexities are such that a simplistic law or ordinance change in just one area will not suffice long-range to bring about the necessary changes to the way we need to really address an intertwined and conflicted set of State and Counties methods to address our needs from government while dealing with fairness and clarity of taxation and other revenues.

We will always have the need for a centralized government to address our societal needs. Unfortunately there are so many authorities dealing with our lives, determining budgets and invoking revenue streams that we need to take some time out to get a contemporary view of these systems and to see if there are better ways to address how to fairly conduct taxation and other revenue promotions.

Please support passage of these resolutions to help us all come to better information and understanding of these important community issues.