



Information Technology Steering Committee (ITSC)
March 7, 2024, Meeting minutes
Remote Meeting via Interactive Conference Technology
1151 Punchbowl Street, Conference Rm. 410, Honolulu, HI

DRAFT

Members Present

Douglas Murdock, Chair, CIO, Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)
Christine Sakuda, Vice Chair, Transform Hawaii Government (THG)
Michael Nishida, First Hawaiian Bank
Marcus Yano, CBTS Hawaiian Telcom
Joel Kumabe, Ohana Pacific Health
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, State Legislature
Eugene Chang, IEEE Computer Society, Hawaii Chapter
Mai Nguyen Van, Judiciary
Garret Yoshimi, University of Hawaii

Members Excused

Representative Kyle Yamashita, State Legislature
Benson Choo, Finance Factors
Arnold Kishi, Center for Internet Security, MS-ISAC
Michael Otsuji, Hawaii State Department of Education

Guests

Candace Park
Rylee Chapman
Michael Fors
ETS: Rebecca Cai, Todd Omura, Lenora Fisher, James Gonser, Jav Azuma, Greg Dalin, Brian Frey, Juha Kauhanen, Sonny Kekipi, Joseph Lee, Jim Miwa, Sheila Oliveira, Jussi Sipola, Kelli Wang,

- I. Call to Order
Quorum was established and roll call taken. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Public Testimony
None.
- III. Legislature Report
 - **Senate Bill (SB) 2516 SD1** renames the state Chief Information Officer (CIO) as the Deputy Comptroller for Information Technology.

Chair Murdock shared his concerns with this bill.

- Reporting structure. SB2516 SD2 changed the position title to Chief Information Technology and Deputy Comptroller. The bill will allow the

Comptroller to appoint and dismiss the CIO instead of the Governor. He noted that the CIO and ETS have been administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and recommended adding that in to clarify the status quo.

- The bill will limit the salary of the CIO to a deputy department head, which will be \$165,000 in July 2024. In comparison, some employees in the state's excluded managerial system have a maximum limit of \$222,000.
- Does the ITSC want to change to a Board and Commission in charge of the CIO rather than an advisory group. Board and Commission members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and might require financial reporting.

Member Kumabe questioned if this change would restrict the capabilities of the CIO and ETS. He suggested a Project Management Office that has oversight of projects, works with the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) and placed under the Comptroller might be a better solution. The PMO would work with the IV&V and CIO to ensure projects are on task. Chair Murdock agreed that the CIO and ETS currently have broad independence as to the projects and implementation of projects and diminish the position to a staff role.

Member Yoshimi had concerns that if the CIO reports to the Comptroller, the CIO may not be a part of the executive cabinet but placed in a subordinate/supporting role. The change in salary is also an issue.

Member Yano questioned the realignment of ETS from being administratively attached to DAGS to under the control of the Comptroller. He does not agree with that direction. He agreed that the lower salary will make it difficult to recruit and retain strong candidates.

Member Nguyen Van voiced concerns of having the CIO report to the Comptroller. With the consolidation of IT, having the Governor's support and approval, how would that change the ability to move forward with IT initiatives and consolidation.

Member Nishida questioned the reason for the organizational change. The Comptroller would then be reporting to the Legislature on IT initiatives. He noted that this move is more of a cost-center approach versus an enabler or technology.

Member Sen. Moriwaki noted her concerns on the ramifications of a reorganization such as salary, department IT consolidation efforts. She urged ITSC members to testify on this bill if it does go before the House committees.

Member Sakuda asked how the IT strategy direction for the state is set. The National Association for State CIOs has a report on governance. About half of the states have cabinets that the CIO sits on and appointed by the Governor. Some of those states also work with a board that is appointed by the Governor. The committee should discuss ITSC's role currently and long-term. Chair Murdock shared that the strategic planning process needs to involve departments and the community; it's a collaborative process. The CIO is accountable for its contents.

Member Sakuda sought clarification on how ETS is situated under DAGS. Candace Park, State Deputy Attorney, reported that by statute, the state can only have a set number of departments. To keep under that limit, ETS is administratively attached to an existing department. Chair Murdock stated that ETS has been treated as an administratively attached agency, but those words were left out of the bill. In his testimony, he will recommend adding those words to clarify the law and what has been in place.

Member Sakuda requested a description of the ITSC for members to use in their testimony. James Gonser, ETS Sr. Communications Officer, will assist members with submitting their testimony.

- **House Bill 2634 HD1** amends the duties and sunset date of the Technology Services Consolidation Working Group.

Member Sakuda asked on the status of the IT Consolidation Report. Chair Murdock stated that the report was completed by ETS and State Departments IT staff. The report analyzed the IT infrastructure very well. The report is posted on the ETS website: <https://ets.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Final-Consolidation-ITS-Report-Act-179-part-1-signed.pdf>

- **Senate Bill 2287 SD1** requires the ITSC to assist the CIO to develop a plan to enhance the mobile application developed for the public to access the State's website.

Chair Murdock explained that the ITSC would assist the CIO to develop a plan to enhance the Hawaii.gov mobile application to increase visitor and resident usage of the mobile application. However, the state does not have a mobile application but does have web pages in mobile-friendly formats. He asked if members have objections having this added to their list of responsibilities.

Member Sakuda questioned the term "assist" as they are more of an advisory committee. Chair Murdock agreed. ETS can recommend "advising" in its testimony.

In summary, Chair Murdock will prepare testimony for SB2516 for the House

Committees and share the draft with members. ITSC members are encouraged to submit testimony as a member of the ITSC.

House Bill 2176 HD2, Senate Bill 2782 SD1, Senate Bill 2866, and Senate Bill 2879 were not discussed.

IV. Good of the Order

Next scheduled meeting: May 23, 2024.

V. Adjournment

Chair Murdock called for adjournment. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.