



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Friday, March 28, 2008  
9:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

**HB2506, HD2, SD1**  
**RELATING TO REORGANIZATION OF STATE AGENCIES.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the  
Committee.

HB2506, HD2, SD1 Relating to Reorganization of State  
Agencies, directs the Legislative Reference Bureau to research  
the responsibilities of state agencies that are integral to  
achieving state energy objectives; identify any duplication or  
deficiency in the state agencies responsibilities; research how  
other states address similar deficiencies in the administration  
of their energy policies; and make recommendations regarding how  
the state agencies can be reorganized to advance the long-term  
energy strategy.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
Tourism must respectfully oppose this bill because of the  
significant resource implications of such a study, including

staff time and attention, and funding that will of necessity be diverted from the agencies whose missions are to achieve the objectives sought by the proposed measure.

DBEDT has limited available staff and resources that can be focused on implementation of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI), as we are still supporting existing federal grant programs such as the State Energy Program and Special Projects grants that support the SEP. Therefore, a Legislative Reference Bureau study at this time may not only be premature, but may take resources away from implementation of the HCEI.

The department respectfully suggests that the Legislature's goal of advancing a comprehensive energy strategy and to achieve the state energy objectives are already within the scope of the existing agencies, and that more can be accomplished now by agencies working together within our existing organizational structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.