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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
WATER, LAND USE, OCEAN RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, February 12, 2008
8:50 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB647, HD1
RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair Morita and Ito, Vice Chair Carroll and Karamatsu, and Members of the
Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) opposes
HB647,HD1, which changes the frequency with which the energy resources public-private
Advisory Committee is required to report to the legislature from annual to biennial (even-
numbered years only), beginning with the 2010 regular session.

Our concerns are based on the recommendations offered by the members of the
Advisory Committee. The Committee was made up of fourteen leaders from government
agencies, environmental and consumer groups, and the private sector. Its *State Facilities
Energy Management Advisory Committee 2008 Report to the Legislature* contained twenty-
five key recommendations in the areas of reducing energy use, enhancing the use of
renewable forms of energy, and improving building design, among others. Recognizing that

these recommendations would take some time to implement, the Committee agreed to include a recommendation that this provision be sunsetted. The Committee noted that DBEDT could continue to advocate for and evaluate the progress of recommendations as well as evaluate any issues and concerns. Committee members felt that the complexity and scope of recommendations - most of which are not currently part of energy management for the State, and some of which necessitated further study, analysis or funding -- offered an abundance of potential initiatives and policy measures, and members expressed hope that they be fully funded to ensure implementation.

The following is a quotation from the Advisory Committee's report:

The State Facilities Energy Management Advisory Committee strongly recommends that this provision be sunsetted. We believe that the recommendations made by this Committee will serve as a framework for future years to come. In addition to this Committee's recommendations, the various departments have their legislative and administrative directives to guide them. The Department of Business, Economic, Development, and Tourism already has authority to convene ad hoc discussion groups and committees to discuss and evaluate issues and concerns.

Noting the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, DBEDT respectfully opposes this measure and recommends that Chapter 196-18 be sunsetted.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.