



**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 COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, February 21, 2008  
9:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

**SB 2845 SD1**  
**RELATING TO REORGANIZATION OF STATE AGENCIES.**

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

Senate Bill No. 2845 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 understands the concept behind SB 2845 SD1. However, we respectfully cannot support 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 aforementioned agencies whose missions are to achieve the objectives sought by the proposed measure.

A similar conclusion was reached by DBEDT, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health when we recently convened a cabinet-level group to study the formation of a department of energy and the environment (subsuming within it the state planning functions). Rather than a time- and expense-consuming reorganization, this group determined that the responsibility for protection of agriculture, land and natural resources, water and renewable energy are already within the scope of the existing departments and that better collaboration among agencies is more effective than a structural reorganization.

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 by agencies working together within our existing organizational structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.