



**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
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of

**SB 2845, SD2
RELATING TO REORGANIZATION OF STATE AGENCIES.**

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll, and Members of the
Committee.

Senate Bill No. 2845, SD2, 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, SD2. However, we
respectfully cannot support this bill in its current form 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.