



**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

Thursday, February 21, 2008
9:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB520 SD1
RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the concept of SB520 SD1, which establishes a peace mission committee within the Office of International Affairs (OIA) of DBEDT and appropriates funds for the committee's activities and programs. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We note, however, that this appropriation was not included in the Executive's Supplemental Budget, and request that this appropriation not displace the priorities contained in that budget.

DBEDT, through the OIA, has placed a high priority on implementing the Hawaii Global Links program, the objective of which is to prepare Hawaii's residents for the global economy. The OIA emphasizes international trade, cultural and educational exchange activities, all which

lead to the better understanding of other people and cultures. Through the interchange of people, products and ideas, international peace based activities would be a natural outgrowth. The proposed peace mission committee and funding of \$500,000 as specified in the bill would be instrumental in helping the OIA to expand its existing business, cultural and educational priorities to include peace initiatives and activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.