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Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

March 17, 2008

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of  
**SB520 SD2**  
**RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.**

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Awana and Committee members:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the concept of SB520 SD2, which establishes a peace mission committee within the Office of International Affairs (OIA) of DBEDT and appropriates an unspecified amount 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 an unspecified appropriation was included in the Executive's Supplemental Budget, and request that this unspecified appropriation not displace the priorities contained in that budget.

DBEDT, however, would prefer that any appropriations received be considered for general use in accordance with priorities established by the OIA, and that the Peace Committee be renamed the International Affairs Committee so as to be broader in mission to help direct and

evaluate the overall activities of the OIA, with an emphasis on peace. After all, the international exchange of education, trade, culture, technology, people and ideas—the mission of the OIA--all lead to peace. We hope the committee will strongly consider this suggestion.

We also recommend that the Committee add in Section 1, page 4, lines 13-20 of SB520, SD2 the following language **“Notwithstanding any laws to the contrary,”** in its efforts to conduct peace missions, initiate cultural exchange and goodwill programs, and develop charitable donation programs with other nations and international organizations, the committee may seek grants from public and private sources and may accept **“and expend”** donations to finance its projects, programs, and activities. The director of business, economic development, and tourism may direct any or as many employees the director deems appropriate to staff the committee.”

In Section 2, to carry out the purposes of the Act, we recommend that \$300,000 be appropriated, and that line six where it reads “by the Peace Mission Committee” be stricken from the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.