



**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 COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & CULTURE**  
Monday, March 31, 2008  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HCR 212/HR 180**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE INTERFAITH STEERING  
COMMITTEE.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) has serious concerns over HCR 212/HR 180, which establishes a statewide interfaith steering committee within DBEDT to develop and promote interfaith activities to further relations between various religious faiths. The committee is also being asked to explore the possibility of organizing a major international conference in Hawaii to place by 2011. While appreciating the intent of this Resolution, we respectfully suggest that there could be better expertise elsewhere in working with the religious, social and volunteer sectors of our community. In addition, DBEDT notes that a non-profit organization would be better equipped to lead and administer the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.