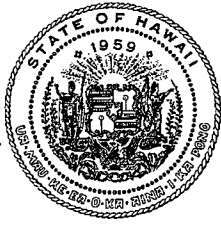


LATE

HB 610



**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

Monday, April 6, 2009

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
HB 610, HD 2, SD 1
RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism offers comments on Section 1 of HB 610, HD 2, SD 1, which amends reporting requirements under HRS 201-19. We defer to the Office of Planning on other sections of the bill, which amend HRS 226, Hawaii State Plan.

Section 1 of HB 610, HD 2, SD 1 eliminates the requirement for DBEDT to submit an annual report on its divisions' and attached agencies' activities to assist emerging growth industries. It replaces that with the requirement for DBEDT to submit an annual report on criteria used to measure growth of emerging industry. It also requires the department to collaborate with the University of Hawaii and other organizations in updating reports on growth industries.

DBEDT has been developing the capacity to research emerging growth industries pursuant to Act 148 of 2007, which was codified as HRS 201-19. So far six studies have been completed or are in progress under that research program, with more studies in the planning stages. Four of those studies have been developed by DBEDT staff while two others were contracted using first-year, Act 148 Funds.

It is our desire to provide the legislature with reports that address its needs. If the amended reporting requirement better serves the Legislature's need information and oversight, we will adjust our reporting to address that. We are also supportive of collaboration with stakeholder and other research organizations to ensure that our studies address needs among stakeholders and benefit by input from organizations with parallel research interests.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.