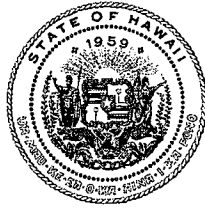
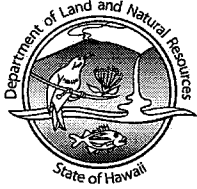


SB 1318

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Monday, March 2, 2009
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1318, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Senate Bill 1318, Senate Draft 1 proposes to repeal the chapters within the Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to Coastal Zone Management and State Planning, and transfers the authority and functions of the Office of Planning to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure.

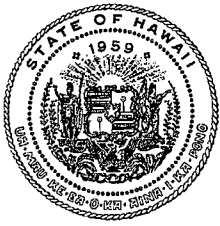
The Department works closely and collaboratively with the Office of Planning (OP) on a variety of land use and coastal issues. The relationship between the two agencies has been congenial and effective. [~~This bill defies logic since there~~] There are no programmatic or policy reasons why the proposed actions in the bill would improve the programs. As public officials we have a responsibility to look at outcomes-- is a program accomplishing what it is supposed to be accomplishing for the people of Hawaii? No factual data has been presented to indicate that moving the authority and functions from OP to DBEDT would enhance or improve program outcomes. [~~In fact, such~~] Such a move could disrupt program performance, particularly when employees must take on new functions on top of existing duties.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
MARK K. ANDERSON
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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, March 2, 2009
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 1318 SD 1
RELATING TO PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully opposes SB 1318 SD 1, which would repeal HRS Chapter 205A, Coastal Zone Management and HRS Chapter 225M State Planning/Office of State Planning, and transfer personnel and assets to DBEDT.

Testimony by the Office of Planning points out that there are many flaws in the mandates of this bill that will leave the state's planning function and planning staff in a state of extreme uncertainty and jeopardize the management of important Federal programs and receipt of Federal Funds. While there is merit in periodically reviewing the organizational arrangements of state programs, this bill would eliminate important state planning functions for no apparent reason. To the contrary, the department believes that these planning statutes are important to the state and that the current organizational arrangements are working well and in the best interest of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.