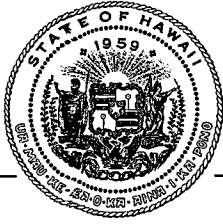


HB 1015

HD1



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

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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Interim Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, March 30, 2011
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
HB 1015 HD1
**RELATING TO MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OUT OF THE
BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 1015 HD1 requests that the Legislature make an emergency appropriation out of the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund to raise the expenditure ceiling from the existing \$1,000,000 ceiling to a total of \$2,000,000 so that federal funds can be disbursed to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands before the federal grant terminates at the end of the current fiscal year 2010 – 2011. No state funds are involved.

The Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Hawaiian Affairs passed the companion Senate measure, SB 1242 on February 15, 2011 and HB 1015 HD1 on March 1, 2011.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) received a federal grant of \$2,000,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency for a brownfields cleanup

revolving loan program to clean up contaminated sites. Funds under this grant must be disbursed by the end of the current fiscal year or they will be lost.

DBEDT executed a no-interest loan to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to clean up a contaminated site in Kapolei. The amount of funds that remain to be disbursed exceeds the existing expenditure ceiling of \$1,000,000. Therefore, an appropriation increase to \$2,000,000 is needed before the end of this fiscal year to allow DBEDT to fulfill its loan contract with DHHL and meet its requirements under the federal grant. The general public and DHHL waiting list beneficiaries will benefit from the cleanup of the contaminated site.

We strongly urge your support for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.