



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

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L A T E

Statement of
RICHARD LIM

Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Friday, April 1, 2011

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

HB 1079 HD 2, SD 1

RELATING TO FEES FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HB 1079 HD 2, SD 1, but defers to the Department of Land and Natural Resources with respect to implementation of this measure.

DBEDT is mandated by law to facilitate the permitting of renewable energy projects and to work with permitting agencies. DBEDT is allowed to collect fees from participating projects and to provide a portion of those fees to agencies such as DLNR to help to offset their costs.

This bill would empower DLNR to directly collect fees to cover some of their own costs, allowing for more staff and enabling a more timely review process. It is our belief that this will benefit the renewable energy sector as well as the state's overall economic development.

We encourage your support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.