

March 30, 2011

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kate Stanley
Chair

Legislative Federal Economic Stimulus Program Oversight Commission

RE: SB 590 SD1 HD1 Relating to the Legislative Federal Economic Stimulus Program Oversight Commission.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Commission is in support of SB 590 SD1 HD1 which extends the life of the Commission from June 30, 2011 to December 31, 2011. This bill is a companion measure to HB 383 which passed the House. The difference in the bills is the effective date. The Commission requests that the effective date be July 1, 2011.

At the January 11, 2011 meeting, the Commission asked Senate President Tsutsui to introduce a bill to extend the life of the Commission by six months who agreed to ask the Speaker of the House to do likewise. The Commission would like the additional six months to ask a few of the agencies (DBEDT, DOE, UH and Health) to update the Commission on their ARRA expenditures and prepare a report to the Legislature prior to next session.

The Commission's purpose as set forth in Act 150 SLH 2009 is to ensure transparency and accountability for programs, services and benefits of funds allocated to the State by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Commission has scheduled meetings to hear presentations from State and Federal agencies since November of 2009. The Commission's website is found on the Hawaii State Legislature's home page under special studies. The web site lists Commission members, and has by date of each meeting the presentations of each agency.

The Commission believes that extending the life of the Commission will further the goal of transparency and accountability as the agencies complete their expenditures of ARRA funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB590 SD1 HD1.