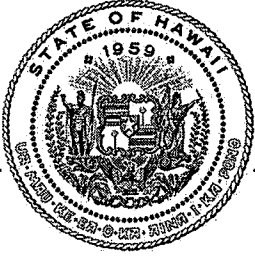


SB 752



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 24, 2011
9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 752 SD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 752 SD1 that proposes that the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) and Enterprise Zone (EZ) Programs' personnel and operating costs be funded through the Community-Based Economic Development Revolving Fund. We would like to note that while this legislation will need to provide adequate up-front financial support for the CBED Revolving Fund, the Administration's budget submitted this week restores positions which handle the CBED and EZ programs, as well as funds for program and operating expenses.

Overall, DBEDT agrees that these programs are important economic generators for the State and have the potential to significantly assist Hawaii's small businesses, expand job creation, and build the capacity of the community-based nonprofit sectors towards sustainability through financial and technical assistance to develop a more healthy economic environment in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.