



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

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INTERIM DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
Interim Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Tuesday, February 1, 2011  
8:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB1389**  
**RELATING TO ENERGY**

Good morning Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committee.

House Bill 1389, to establish the office of energy to be administratively attached to the DBEDT raises valid concerns in orchestrating all energy issues statewide. In general, DBEDT supports the intent behind this bill and is equally concerned with accomplishing the wide array of energy goals Hawaii has set out to achieve; however, DBEDT does not believe there is an "immediate need to coordinate the efforts of all these agencies" as the bill suggests. Such efforts would be duplicative in nature and are unnecessary.

The Hawaii Constitution and various Hawaii Revised Statutes set up and provide ample governmental agencies whose purpose is to promote and implement programs and initiatives designed to steer Hawaii away from its dependence on imported fossil fuels. DBEDT, the Consumer Advocate, the <sup>energy stake holder</sup> Public Utility Commission, and even the recent addition of a third-party private company to serve as the Public Benefit Fund Administrator for Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards ("EEPS") are all tasked with helping Hawaii reach its energy goals. Within the DBEDT alone, there are three specific divisions who work tirelessly to accomplish many of

the duties and goals identified in HB 1389: the Strategic Industries Division (Planning and Policy and Emergency Preparedness), the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Division, and the Renewable Energy/Transportation Division. Together all of these divisions report to the DBEDT director who reports to the Governor.

Again, while all of the concerns and efforts created by HB1389 are valid, and are ripe for assisting Hawaii to fossil fuel independence, this particular bill is a large duplication of efforts and state funds already hard at work.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

# HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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## TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### HB 1389 RELATING TO ENERGY

February 1, 2011

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Coffman and members of the Committee I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance (HREA). HREA is an industry-based, nonprofit corporation in Hawaii established in 1995. Our mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of our goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

The purpose of HB 1389 is to establish the office of energy to be administratively attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. (\$)

HREA **takes no position** no position on this measure at this time, and offer the following comments:

Reference (from the DBEDT web-site): "The Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism serves as Hawaii's statewide Energy Resources Coordinator. The Strategic Industries Division supports the Energy Resources Coordinator and serves as the Hawaii State Energy Office."

- (1) The stated purpose of the "Office of Energy" is to "assist in the development of a long range, comprehensive, and strategic energy plan for Hawaii." HREA understood that has been a goal for the existing "State Energy Office". So, is the intent of the Office of Energy to simply be a planning entity? If so, why not make it part of the Governor's Office?
- (2) However, is the real intent of "Office of Energy" to develop and implement the strategic plan? If so, why not separate the existing "Energy Office" from DBEDT, and take the Energy Resource Coordinator position with the Office?
- (3) We look forward to seeing what others have to say about this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

