

SB 2918

EDT-WLH



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

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GOVERNOR

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
And
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 2918
RELATING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Fukunaga and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Solomon and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 2918 with amendments. This bill establishes the Halawa community development district and transfers title, control, custody and management authority of the designated lands to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. DBEDT, however, defers to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Accounting and General Services for the impacts regarding the transfer of title and management and control issues.

This bill envisions making the highest and best use of the 104 acres containing and surrounding Aloha Stadium. As a main economic driver for the area, the stadium can be a magnet for supporting and complementary business activities. With Pearl Harbor in close

proximity, and transportation access already in place, the prospects to draw further attractions and business development activities into the area are high. DBEDT agrees that the stadium area, with proper planning and vision, can be a destination area with a confluence of shopping, entertainment, sports and visitor activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



WINDWARD AHUPUA'A ALLIANCE

From the Peaks of *Na Ko'olau* to the Outer Reefs

*Community-Based Planning
Sustainable Economic Development
Restoration, Preservation, Protection & Public Access
Educational & Cultural Programs*

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

*Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair*

COMMITTEE ON WASTER, LAND AND HOUSING

*Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair*

1:30 pm

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
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SB 2918 - RELATING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Comments

My name is Shannon Wood, the president & cofounder of the *Windward Ahupua'a Alliance*, a 501c3 Hawai'i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002. *WAA* now works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers at all levels of government, and the media about using **SMART GROWTH** principles all across the state which promote economic and environmental sustainability.

To that end, we strongly support the concepts being promoted by the *Legislature* - especially here in the *Senate* - to focus on urban (re)development to protect and preserve agricultural and conservation lands. This not only includes infrastructure improvements but also economic and educational development components.

The entire *Aloha Stadium* site is an extremely valuable but grossly under-utilized piece of property. It is now time to look at its future - not just as a place for athletic events but as a major revenue-generator located right in the heart of the urban O'ahu core.

To address these issues, we strongly support the transfer of the entire Stadium site from the *Department of Accounting & General Services* to another state department/agency - either directly to the *Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism* as a separate entity within it or to put it under the jurisdiction of the *Public Land Development Corporation* located within the *Department of Land & Natural Resources*.

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However, if this takes place, we would prefer that the title of the entity be the *Aloha Stadium Development District*. Although the *Stadium* itself is geographically located in the Halawa-Salt Lake-Aliamanu area, it belongs to all of us.

Furthermore, we would urge that not only people who live & work in the area but also those who have been *Stadium* & *University of Hawai'i* supporters should also be brought to the table to plan its future.

I am also concerned that this particular bill splits the physical property into two parts: *Aloha Stadium* itself would remain under the jurisdiction of the *Stadium Authority* and the surrounding land which would be managed and developed by the new entity. It is not clear in the bill as to where the *Authority* would be located - kept in *DAGS* or moved over to another department.

Much of the *Stadium's* revenues comes from renting out the parking lots. Taking that away from the *Authority* will jeopardize its ability to not only pay its bills but also to provide both maintenance as well as upgrades & improvements.

In closing, I want to thank people who have taken the time to listen to our concerns and for supporting the proposed economic developments. When the four of us first started these discussions and began our research in the spring of 2010, we really had no idea how far we wind up going, but it is clear that a lot of people agree with the concept.