



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

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB800

**RELATING TO MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM FROM
THE ENERGY SECURITY SPECIAL FUND.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports HB800, to appropriate \$145,000 in energy security special funds for an emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2012-2013 to staff and support the Hawaii Refinery Task Force, as discussed by Governor Abercrombie in his State of the State address.

The Task Force will serve as the principal advisory group to the Governor, and if so requested, the Hawaii State Legislature, on the market disruptions facing the State associated with changes in the State's refining capacity and ownership, and on specific measures, alternatives and actions the State should consider to maintain adequate and affordable fuel supplies to meet the State's energy needs. With the impending closure of Tesoro Hawaii's Kapolei refinery, and the uncertain future of Hawaii's remaining Chevron refinery, the Task Force will help the State plan and prepare for changes in Hawaii's refining capacity.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism has identified the need for an additional \$145,000 in energy security special funds for fiscal year 2012-2013 to support the Task Force in assessing these refinery issues, including funding for coordination and operation of the task force, studies and assessments, and funding for a staff position. A vacancy currently exists within the department's energy division as a result of budget control measures and will be filled immediately to serve as the staff liaison to the Task Force and related matters involving fueling infrastructure and energy assurance.

This emergency funding will ensure that the Hawaii Refinery Task Force will be provided with appropriate support to meet its intended purposes in fiscal year 2012-2013.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of HB800.