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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Wednesday, February 6, 2019
10:10 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 1229
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **offers comments** on HB 1229, which seeks to ensure the continued viability of the State's sea salt manufacturing industry by providing education and support to local businesses regarding the Food and Drug Administration's industry guidance on colored sea salt.

DBEDT believes that to obtain FDA approval of the color additives used by Hawaii sea salt companies will be a lengthy and costly endeavor. Detailed research, studies and analysis by science and industry experts must be conducted and submitted to the FDA for review. DBEDT estimates the cost of engaging in this process would be a minimum of \$100,000. DBEDT also does not have the technical expertise to assess what is required of a study or evaluate its findings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.