



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

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, February 3, 2020
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
in consideration of
SB2856
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Department supports Administration Bill, SB2856, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 201-18 to allow the use of funds in the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (HBCRLF) to be used for cleanup grants and brownfields site assessments, in addition to cleanup loans. The HBCRLF Program was capitalized with a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is administered by the Office of Planning (OP).

This measure is needed to authorize and take advantage of expanded use of HBCRLF funds, which EPA provided under a closeout agreement for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds, because the need for funds for cleanup grants and site assessments is high. The HBCRLF Program has already identified with its EPA and Department of Health partners, several potential projects seeking cleanup grant funds for restoration and reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties that are slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2856
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

SENATOR RONALD D. KOUCHI, PRESIDENT HAWAII STATE SENATE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 2/3/2020

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure does not impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports this measure to expand the
5 Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BFRLF) authority to enable sub-grants to
6 eligible public, private and non-profit entities for the assessment and cleanup of contaminated
7 properties and return them to productive reuse.

8 The Department has dedicated federally funded staff within the Hazard Evaluation and
9 Emergency Response Office to actively support safe redevelopment of Brownfields sites. These
10 sites are often underutilized due to contamination or perceived contamination that hinders
11 redevelopment. The Department actively supports property owners and potential purchasers
12 through outreach, Brownfield forums, and technical assistance needed to complete assessment
13 and remediation to prepare sites for redevelopment. A key part of this effort are our partnerships
14 with Office of Planning who manages the BFRLF and U.S. EPA who initially capitalized the
15 fund and provides ongoing, annual competitive assessment and remediation grants.

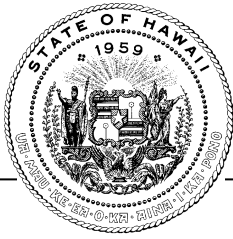
16 Expanding the use of the BFRLF to conduct assessments and where necessary, cleanups of
17 potentially contaminated property, will encourage redevelopment of commercial or industrial
18 properties that are left idled, abandoned and underutilized because of contamination. Expanding
19 the use of the loan funds to sub-grants will benefit the local community by having more lands to

1 be developed for affordable housing, public parks, and open areas. This will also promote infill
2 redevelopment that will provide more land available for housing away from productive
3 agricultural lands.

4 The Department serves as the Site Manager for the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan
5 Fund Program with Office of Planning provides oversight and technical review in the
6 assessment and cleanup of these contaminated properties. The Department believes that this
7 legislation will benefit the state, counties, private owners, non-profit organizations in providing
8 more available lands for redevelopment.

9 **Offered Amendments: None**

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, February 3, 2020
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 2856
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning strongly supports Administration Bill, SB 2856, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 201-18 to allow the use of funds in the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (HBCRLF) to be used for cleanup grants and brownfields site assessments, in addition to cleanup loans. The HBCRLF Program was capitalized with a \$2 million Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The HBCRLF program is administered by OP.

This measure is needed to authorize and take advantage of expanded use of HBCRLF funds, which EPA provided under a closeout agreement for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds, because the need for funds for cleanup grants and site assessments is high.

As the program administrator of the HBCRLF Program, OP has identified with its EPA and Department of Health partners, several potential projects seeking site assessment and/or cleanup grant funds for the restoration and reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties that are slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements. This measure would facilitate more productive use of HBCRLF funds to advance eligible public and non-profit projects of community benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2856

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 8:09:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: