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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 24, 2022
10:00 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
HCR46/ HR41, REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT
PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this resolution.

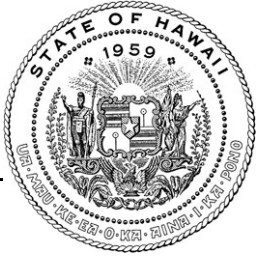
The purpose of this resolution is to request the Hawaii State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawaii. This resolution also requests that "all departments and agencies with energy-related duties and responsibilities . . . support the Chief Energy Officer in this endeavor".

As noted in the resolution, there is a well-established history of collaboration between the USDOE and Hawaii with respect to Hawaii's clean energy and climate goals. As Hawaii continues to push forward with its transition, the need for assistance in many areas, such as technology, research, and education to name a few examples,

will increase. The need for such assistance will become even more pronounced as the relatively low-hanging fruit that are currently being pursued and eventually exhausted. As acknowledged by the resolution, the State must also focus on pursuing the transition in a manner that benefits all consumers rather than simply assuming that such benefits will accrue equally to all communities. In addition, the State, which is geographically isolated, needs to pursue the transition in a manner that will increase Hawaii's resiliency both for the purposes for residents and businesses but also for the purposes of supporting the Department of Defense's ability to stand ready to address national security needs. Having USDOE assistance in thoughtful and comprehensive planning to meet these objectives is desirable.

The Department supports this resolution because it believes that such a permanent presence in the State by the USDOE could: 1) enhance opportunities to create more Federal/State partnerships; 2) increase opportunities for Hawaii to take advantage of Federal assistance in terms of technologies, studies, and programs that will help Hawaii's transition to clean energy; and 3) explore opportunities to ensure that the benefits of Hawaii's transition to clean energy are delivered to all customers and make the transition more affordable for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



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

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, March 24, 2022
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SUPPORT
HCR 46/HR41

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism strongly supports HCR 46/HR 41, which requests the Hawai'i State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawai'i.

DBEDT is ready and willing to assist HSEO in pursuing this effort. The USDOE is a strategic partner to the State of Hawai'i in achieving Hawai'i's clean energy goals and transforming Hawai'i into a knowledge-based, zero emission, digital, and global economy. Many DBEDT agencies and numerous businesses across the state engage the USDOE through numerous initiatives.

A permanent presence for the USDOE in Hawai'i would deepen this partnership to accelerate Hawai'i's transformation, enable the USDOE to better assist other jurisdictions with undertaking these transformations, and enhance the United States' ability to engage with partners throughout the Pacific region to enhance national security through economic prosperity and fighting climate change.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.