



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Thursday, March 24, 2022  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HR 82**  
**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROGRAM TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO  
RECOMMEND USER-FRIENDLY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROGRAM'S  
WEBSITE.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports and offers the following comments on HR 82.

The OPSD acknowledges there is always room for improvement in how the website presents the information, and within tight staff and budgetary limits, strives to continually enhance the website's attributes. In fact, the Environmental Review Program's website was just switched to a new server as a result of the transfer from DOH to OPSD via Act 152 (2021). This switch took substantial staff time and resources to implement, and refinements are still underway. Recently, OPSD has improved the website by highlighting projects still open for public review.

The OPSD welcomes the opportunity to participate on a task force containing two representatives from our office, two representatives from the Environmental Advisory Council, the Chief Information Office of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services or their designee, and a representative from the Sierra Club.

The OPSD requests that the resolution be amended to add the following language: "Be It Further Resolved: That the "task force" be exempt from Senate Advice and Consent in order to start immediately, and also exempt from Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes in order to operate most efficiently, since there is not sufficient staff capacity to support a Sunshine Law task force."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.