

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 2366, HD1
RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

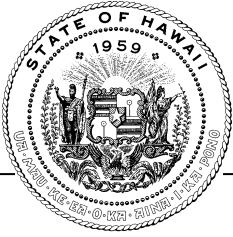
The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB 2366, HD1 which repeals the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

When Act 15, SLH, 2018, was passed, it created a task force of state and private sector officials and charged them with important research in several areas with potential for reducing greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. The Legislature provided \$150,000 in general funds to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to start the research and OPSD initiated three contracts with experts in soil science, farming best practices, and nature-based carbon sequestration. Those completed reports provided a basis for moving on to the next steps in the required research program laid out in Chapter 225P-4, HRS.

Unfortunately, further funding was not available and the Vista Volunteer who staffed the Task Force ended her year of service. Without funds for contractual services and one position to manage the Sunshine Law requirements for a large board, DBEDT supports OPSD's recommendation that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) has received a grant from U.S. EPA to carry out similar work and the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) has also completed a Decarbonization Strategy for the Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

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MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 2366 HD1
RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 2366 HD 1 which repeals the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

When Act 15, SLH, 2018, was passed, it created a task force of state and private sector officials and charged them with important research in a several areas with potential for reducing greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. The Legislature provided \$150,000 in general funds to start the research and OPSD initiated three contracts with experts in soil science, farming best practices, and nature-based carbon sequestration. Those completed reports provided a basis for moving on to the next steps in the required research program laid out in Chapter 225P-4, HRS.

Unfortunately, further funding was not available and the Vista Volunteer who staffed the Task Force ended her year of service. Without funds for contractual services and one position to manage the Sunshine Law requirements for a large board, OPSD is obliged to recommend that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) has received a grant from U.S. EPA to carry out similar work and the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) has also completed a Decarbonization Strategy for the Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.