



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, March 22, 2024
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HR55 / HCR70
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM TO CONVENE A SPORTS WAGERING WORKING GROUP TO
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL LEGALIZATION
AND REGULATION OF ONLINE SPORTS WAGERING IN HAWAII.**

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) appreciates the intent and offers comments regarding HR55 / HCR70, which requests DBEDT to convene a sports wagering working group to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the potential legalization and regulation of online sports wagering in Hawaii.

DBEDT is aware of the state's economic condition and state revenue growth projections. For the project to be completed at the scope and timeline as requested in the resolution, we would need \$200,000 state funds to hire a research company to prepare the study.

We have vacancies for our economist positions. We would recommend extending the deadline to 20 days before the legislative session of 2026, and we will conduct the study in house with the hope that we will fill the economist positions in the next few months.

We are following a number of other bills and resolutions that require DBEDT to do studies, and we will cooperate as long as our primary functions and responsibilities are not impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.