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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Friday, April 12, 2024

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 174, SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TWENTY-FIRST
CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE TO ASSESS CURRENT
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION, PROCESSING, RETENTION, AND
SHARING PROCEDURES UTILIZED BY ALL STATE AGENCIES.**

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) urges your **strong support** for SCR 174, SD1, which requests that a Twenty-First Century Data Governance Task Force be convened to assess the current demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures of all state agencies.

OPSD has served on the SCR 5 working group convened the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and on the current Act 136 working group charged with this task. We were not able to complete the work and would like this opportunity to continue this discussion on the need to collect demographic data that reflects the diversity of Hawaii's residents and their language access needs and other unique cultural strengths.

OPSD supports the offer of the State Department of Health to be the lead in convening the proposed Task Force. OPSD would value the opportunity to serve on the Task Force. Improving equity depends on improving access. Improving access depends on knowing the unique needs of different communities in Hawaii.

Mahalo to the Committee for hearing this Resolution. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.