

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

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Thursday, February 20, 2025  
12:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #308

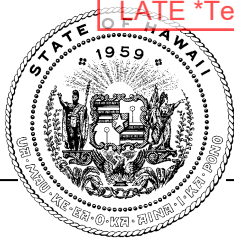
In consideration of  
**HB 1017, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB1017 HD1, an Administration bill 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 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 a dedicated staff position to manage the Sunshine Law requirements for a large board and research contract management duties, OPSD is obliged to recommend that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) has a broad purpose, but does not currently have sufficient staff to take on the statutory mandates of Ch. 225P-4, HRS. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

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

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
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Written Testimony Only

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Thursday, February 20, 2024, 12 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 1017 HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE**

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1017 HD1 which repeals HRS Chapter 225P-4, 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 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 a dedicated staff position to manage the Sunshine Law requirements for a large board and research contract management duties, OPSD is obliged to recommend that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) has a broad purpose, but does not currently have sufficient staff to take on the statutory mandates of Ch. 225P-4, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.