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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 10:01 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
HB 1017, HD1
RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEGQUESTRATION TASK FORCE

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

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 nineteen state, county, legislative 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for a 19-member board and research contract management duties, OPSD is obliged to recommend that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.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.



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

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, April 3, 2025
10:01 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard 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.