

**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

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 20, 2025
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
SCR124 / SR104
**ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE FOR SPEED (SIMPLIFYING PERMITTING FOR
ENHANCED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) TO IDENTIFY ACTIONS NEEDED TO
EXPEDITE, FACILITATE, AND COORDINATE STATE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PERMIT PROCESSES.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee:

I submit comments on SCR124 / SR104, which seeks to establish the Task Force for SPEED (Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development) and include a representative from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. This initiative is a step toward streamlining permitting processes across government agencies.

Permitting systems are often complex and time-consuming, creating challenges for businesses and individuals. By identifying inefficiencies and developing strategies for simplification, this task force can enhance government efficiency, support economic growth, and improve transparency. A more accessible process particularly benefits small businesses and entrepreneurs navigating regulatory requirements.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this measure, which fosters a more efficient and business-friendly environment in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: puc.hawaii.gov
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committee on
Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

March 20, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: S.C.R. 124 / S.R. 104

Title: ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE FOR SPEED (SIMPLIFYING PERMITTING FOR ENHANCED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) TO IDENTIFY ACTIONS NEEDED TO EXPEDITE, FACILITATE, AND COORDINATE STATE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERMIT PROCESSES.

Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this resolution to streamline state and intergovernmental permit processes by convening a task force for permit simplification.

In our regulatory oversight of public utilities, the Commission has heard firsthand how slow and/or convoluted permitting processes can negatively impact developers. In some cases, permit time alone can obstruct otherwise viable projects. The Commission is willing and able to commit time to attending and participating in this task force as outlined in the bill.

Particularly as it pertains to clean energy, the Commission would also suggest looking into how other states have addressed permit simplifications, such as in Massachusetts.¹ Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/commission-on-energy-infrastructure-siting-and-permitting>



LAND USE COMMISSION

Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Wai wai a Ho'omāka'ika'i

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR

DANIEL E. ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

235 S. Beretania Street, RM 406, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804
Email Address: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 587-3822
Fax: (808) 587-3827
Website: luc.hawaii.gov

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Thursday March 20, 2025
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 016 and Video Conference

In consideration of
SCR124/SR104

**ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE FOR SPEED TO IDENTIFY ACTIONS NEEDED TO
EXPEDITE, FACILITATE, AND COORDINATE STATE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PERMIT PROCESSES**

Chair Wakai; Vice Chair Chang; and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

The proposed resolution would establish a task force, under a chair to be appointed by the House Speaker, to simplify permitting for enhanced economic development. A report with findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, would be required prior to the 2026 Legislature's Regular Session.

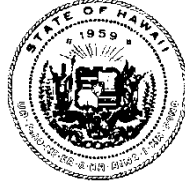
The Land Use Commission ("LUC") has been identified to participate and be represented on the task force. Representatives on the task force have been asked to be designated no later than August 1, 2025.

The LUC supports the intent of the resolution and would participate on such a task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of **DEAN MINAKAMI**

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

March 20, 2025 at 3:00 pm.
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of
S.C.R 124/ S.R. 104

**ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE FOR SPEED (SIMPLIFYING PERMITTING FOR
ENHANCED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) TO IDENTIFY ACTIONS NEEDED TO
EXPEDITE, FACILITATE, AND COORDINATE STATE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PERMIT PROCESSES.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** SCR 124/ SR 104.

The permitting process is often time-consuming due to the understaffing of resource-constrained agencies, the complexity and multiplicity of requirements, the sequential and contingent nature of reviews, and the potential for legal challenges, among other things. The entitlement and permitting process can take over five years, creating significant delays and uncertainty for housing projects, increasing carrying costs and capital market risks, and deterring investment in affordable housing.

HHFDC is named as a member of the task force and supports efforts to streamline the permitting process across various government agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.