

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 6, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #325

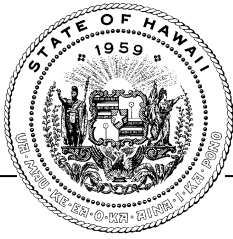
In consideration of
HB 1017
RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB1017, 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for a large board and research contract management duties, OPSD is obliged to recommend that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.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.



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

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 6, 2024, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1017 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.

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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.