



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

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, March 24, 2022
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
HB 1810, HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports HB 1810 HD1.

The bill sets forth new text in section 341-5.5, HRS, to establish quorum as a “majority of all of the members currently appointed to the environmental advisory council.” The bill further establishes that the “concurrence of a majority of all the members currently appointed to the environmental advisory council shall be necessary to make any action of the council valid.”

There have been many instances where the Environmental Advisory Council has not had its full complement of fifteen members, due to term expirations. The minimum number of board members required for quorum is eight members. In some instances, meetings have had to be cancelled because of the inability to meet the quorum count due to having a number of members be much less than the fifteen the council is entitled to.

In short, we believe that the proposed revisions to section 341-5.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, will allow the Environmental Advisory Council to function more efficiently. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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