

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
THEODORE E. LIU  
DIRECTOR  
MARK K. ANDERSON  
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: [www.hawaii.gov/dbedt](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

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

Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**  
Friday, February 13, 2009  
2:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of  
**HB 1603 HD 1**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII'S ECONOMY**

Chair Tokioka, Vice Chair Oshiro, and members of the House Committee on Legislative Management.

HB 1603 HD 1 directs the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to contract for a study of Hawaii's economy by an out-of-state contractor. The Department supports the intent of this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010

The study would be composed of two parts: 1) a diagnostic assessment of the state's economic condition and 2) development of an overall strategy for addressing the state's economic development challenges. We would like to point out that much of the requested content of such a study has been developed to some degree in recent and current efforts. For instance, a project several years ago sponsored by the National Governor's Association called "Pathways to Advancement," assessed the overall strengths and weaknesses of Hawaii's economy and economic development resources and made a number of recommendations. Other projects have also addressed elements of the proposed study including the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (or CEDS) project conducted by the State Office of Planning and county development boards, Hawaii's applications for the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Initiatives for Economic Development (or WIRED) grants, the Clean Energy Initiative, the recent profile of the high technology industry by the Hawaii Science and

Technology Council (HiSciTech) and recent reports on innovation and emerging industries by DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division.

Current efforts that will develop additional information and recommendations related to such a study include preparation of a technology development plan, led by the High Technology Development Corporation, University of Hawaii and private sector interests. Also underway is a new State-County update of the CEDS plan. In addition, continued research is being conducted on emerging growth industries by the DBEDT Research Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**JAMES W. Y. WONG**

3737 Manoa Road • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 • (808)946-2966 • Fax: (808)943-3140

February 12, 2009

Honorable Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Chair  
Members of Committee on Legislative Management  
Committee on Legislative Management

RE: House Bill 1603

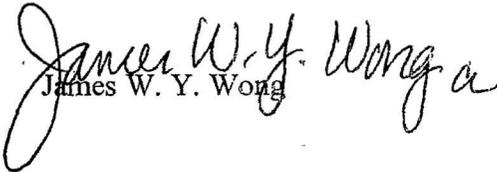
Dear Honorable Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee on Legislative Management:

I wish to support passage of House Bill 1603 which provides for appropriation of funding to have the legislative reference bureau to have an economic assessment made of the State's economy

For years, our State has been challenged with the high cost of doing business in Hawaii, the high cost of living, the high cost of housing and real estate, loss of many of our talented youths who have left the state for better business and living opportunities in other states on the mainland. I agree with the bill that intends to have a study made of these matters so that the State can act upon these very serious issues.

I urge your approving House Bill 1603.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Y. Wong

Honorable Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Chair  
Members of Committee on Legislative Management  
Committee on Legislative Management

RE: House Bill 1603

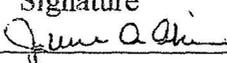
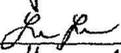
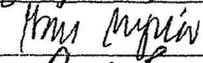
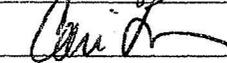
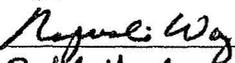
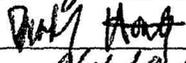
Dear Honorable Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee on Legislative Management:

PETITION:

We wish to support passage of House Bill 1603 which provides for appropriation of funding to have the legislative reference bureau to conduct an economic assessment made of the State's economy

Our State has been challenged with the high cost of doing business in Hawaii, the high cost of living, the high cost of housing and real estate, loss of many of our talented youths who have left the state for better business and living opportunities in other states on the mainland. This study would identify the challenges as well as the opportunities facing the State.

We urge your approval of this bill.

Print Name	Signature	Address
JUNE A. ALIWA		46-298 KAHUKUHA ST KANELOE
Lori Lee		3737 MANOA ROAD, 96822
CHAI SUGDA		3707 MANOA RD. HON 96822
COLIN LAU		47-695 HUI ULILI ST., KANELOE 96744
NAGUA WONG		1577 NEHA ST. HON. HI 96822
DAVID WONG		1836 PUNAHOU ST. HONOLULU, HI, 96822
ALEXANDER WONG		2309A KONOIAHI DR HONOLULU 96822
Setsoek K. Thompson		936 AHUWATE PL. HON HI 96821