

SB 256



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

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

9:30 a.m., March 3, 2009

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

SB 256 SD1

RELATING TO TELEWORK.

Chair Kim, Vice Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 256 SD1 which would establish a temporary telework task force in DBEDT for administrative purposes in order to develop a comprehensive plan to encourage and expand telework opportunities in both the public and private sectors and make the following comments.

We appreciate the changes made in SD 1 to provide support from the Legislative Reference Bureau for preparation of the report and the removal of the appropriation in light of the current fiscal situation. We believe, however, that even with the help of the Legislative Reference Bureau, we could not adequately meet the expectations for the task force given the current resource constraints.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

LURF



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Via Capitol Website

March 2, 2009

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date: Monday, March 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m. in CR 211

Testimony in Support of SB 256, SD1 – Relating to Telework
(Temporary telework task force to develop incentives and recommendations to encourage and expand telework opportunities.)

The Honorable Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Shan Tsutsui
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is David Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF is writing **in support of SB 256, SD1**, which will establish a temporary telework task force to develop a incentives and recommendations to encourage and expand telework opportunities in both the public and private sectors that will help to alleviate the high transportation-related expenses of commuting, reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more time either working from home or with their families, rather than in traffic.

SB 256, SD1. The purpose of this bill is to establish a temporary telework task force to develop incentives and recommendations that will encourage and expand telework opportunities in Hawaii while reducing harmful environmental impacts, traffic congestion, the dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage a better qua comprehensive plan to encourage and expand telework opportunities in both the public and private sectors that will help to alleviate the high transportation-related expenses of comality of life for people who commute to work in Hawai'i.

The bill establishes a temporary telework task force to be comprised of:

- (1) Two members appointed by the president of the senate, one of which shall be from the public sector and one of which shall be from the private business sector;

- (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one of which shall be from the public sector and one of which shall be from the private business sector;
- (3) The director of business, economic development, and tourism, or the director's designee;
- (4) The director of human resources development, or the director's designee;
- (5) The president of the University of Hawaii, or the president's designee;
- (6) A member from the Hawaii government employees association appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (7) A member from a local business organization appointed by the president of the senate;

Provided that the members of the task force shall collectively appoint a chairperson.

The duties of the task force will be to:

- (1) Develop incentives and recommendations to encourage and expand telework opportunities in both the public and private sectors throughout the state that will help to alleviate the high transportation-related expenses of commuting, reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more time either working from home or with their families, rather than in traffic;
- (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force that address issues specific to public sector and private sector employees;
- (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan; and
- (4) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task force.

The telework task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2010 and shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than August 1, 2010.

LURF's Position. A LURF members **support** telework initiatives that will improve the quality of life for our island community and families. A task force is the best approach to determine whether teleworking would be feasible in Hawaii's island state. Other states such as Arizona, California, and Oregon have all been successful in implementing policies to encourage workplace flexibility for their state employees. Studies show that these programs increase employee productivity and motivation, increases employee efficiency, improves quality of life, and reduces pollution and energy consumption. The growth of telecommuting is partly attributable to the greater availability of broadband technology, employees placing a greater emphasis on work-life balance, rising office rents, and improvements in internet security. A workforce combined with traditional employees and telecommuting employees will significantly reduce the number of cars on the road, reduce emissions and also reduce employer overheads.

LURF and its members understand that Hawaii is a very unique place and because of its unique island culture, preservation of the environment is important. LURF and its members agree that we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and that we must start to employ other clean and efficient sources of energy for our homes and get our residents out of their cars, which would allow them to spend more time with their families and doing things they enjoy.

We would respectfully request that an amendment be drafted that would add a large landowner or representative of landowners as a member of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 256, SD1.**

Department of Taxation

Position Summary

Senate Committee on Ways & Means/March 2, 2009

2.87

Bill Number	Bill Title "Relating to..."	Position	Comments	Revenue Impact	Methodology
SB 972 SD 1	TAX ADMINISTRATION	Strong concerns; prefer original version	*The Department strongly prefers the enforcement efforts set forth in the original measure because they are effective and comprehensive to target the Cash Economy. * Tax clearances as provided in this measure will be both time consuming and costly for the Department and taxpayers. The Department would need additional resources to accomplish this measure beyond what the original measure provided.	Potentially substantial, assuming sufficient resources.	Pending