



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Interim Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, February 2, 2011
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 1090
RELATING TO CHAPTER 243, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Good morning, Chair Souki, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee.

HB1090 amends the fuel tax law, Chapter 243, to clarify that the entire fuel tax return is a public record and available for public inspection.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports this bill as it will allow us to access fuel data that are essential in energy planning and policy development.

The availability of such public records will enhance the effectiveness of the Energy Resources Coordinator (ERC) in performing its statutory functions pursuant HRS §196-4, and specifically in reference to HRS §196-4(17), which requires the ERC to develop and maintain a comprehensive and systematic quantitative and qualitative capacity to analyze the status of

energy resources, systems, and markets, both in-state and those to which Hawaii is directly tied, particularly in relation to the State's economy, and to recommend, develop proposals for, and assess the effectiveness of policy and regulatory decisions, and conduct energy emergency planning.

DBEDT supports the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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SUBJECT: FUEL, Clarify provisions

BILL NUMBER: SB 1317; HB 1090 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by Tsutsui by request; HB by Say by request

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends various sections of HRS chapter 243 to replace the term "statements" with "return." Clarifies that fuel tax returns are public records subject to inspection. Also clarifies the statute of limitations for the assessment or refund of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an administration measure submitted by the department of transportation TRN-03(11). The proposed measure merely clarifies that the entire fuel tax return is a public record and available for public inspection. The measure also clarifies that the environmental response, energy, and food security tax shall be subject to the three-year statute of limitations of the fuel tax law.

Digested 2/1/11