



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 905
RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB 905, that tasks the Office of Planning (OP) with conducting a comprehensive review of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226, the State Planning Act, to include: (1) the analysis of a wide array of state policies and programs, county plans and programs, functional plans, capital improvements programs, and significant issues confronting the State with respect to the State Planning Act and its implementation; and (2) soliciting proposals for amendments to the State Planning Act from the general public pursuant to HRS § 226-54. OP is to submit a report of its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature prior to the 2017 legislative session.

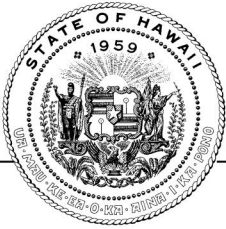
HRS Chapter 226 was enacted in 1978, after a multi-year, cross-sector effort to develop goals and policies to guide the development of the State and to establish an integrated planning and implementation system to deliver on those policies. The last review of HRS Chapter 226 was initiated in 1983 and completed in 1985, and resulted in the enactment of legislation to fine tune the goals, policies, and objectives of Part I and priority guidelines of Part III of the State Planning Act.

Since then, there have been significant changes in Hawaii's economic, physical, and social conditions, technology, and the global marketplace, as well as in the constraints and opportunities the State faces as we plan for the future. Every legislative session there are individual bills proposing new policies and revisions to existing policies to address changes in our planning environment. A comprehensive review of the State Planning Act—with respect to

how it aligns with current and emerging conditions and issues and its effectiveness in addressing the needs of Hawaii's people and providing for Hawaii's future—is long overdue.

HB 905, specifies an appropriation amount of \$250,000 for both fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to OP in order to complete the comprehensive review. These funds would be required as OP lacks the staff and resources to undertake a project of this scope at this time. A rigorous evaluation of the State Planning Act will require an investment of public and private resources. Development of the original plan included thorough topic area studies, statewide collaboration, and input by subject matter experts. OP estimates that the proposed appropriation amounts in the measure would be sufficient to accomplish this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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LEO R. ASUNCION
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
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