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OFFICE OF PLANNING  
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**MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Thursday, February 1, 2024  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 2366**  
**RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 2366 which repeals the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

When Act 15, SLH, 2018, was passed, it created a task force of state and private sector officials and charged them with important research in a several areas with potential for reducing greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. The Legislature provided \$150,000 in general funds to start the research and OPSD initiated three contracts with experts in soil science, farming best practices, and nature-based carbon sequestration. Those completed reports provided a basis for moving on to the next steps in the required research program laid out in Chapter 225P-4, HRS.

Unfortunately, further funding was not available and the Vista Volunteer who staffed the Task Force ended her year of service. Without funds for contractual services and one position to manage the Sunshine Law requirements for a large board, OPSD is obliged to recommend that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) has received a grant from U.S. EPA to carry out similar work and the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) has also completed a Decarbonization Strategy for the Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thursday, February 1, 2024  
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 2366**  
**RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB 2366 which repeals the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

When Act 15, SLH, 2018, was passed, it created a task force of state and private sector officials and charged them with important research in a several areas with potential for reducing greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. The Legislature provided \$150,000 in general funds to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to start the research and OPSD initiated three contracts with experts in soil science, farming best practices, and nature-based carbon sequestration. Those completed reports provided a basis for moving on to the next steps in the required research program laid out in Chapter 225P-4, HRS.

Unfortunately, further funding was not available and the Vista Volunteer who staffed the Task Force ended her year of service. Without funds for contractual services and one position to manage the Sunshine Law requirements for a large board, DBEDT supports OPSD's recommendation that Chapter 225P-4 be repealed.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) has received a grant from U.S. EPA to carry out similar work and the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) has also completed a Decarbonization Strategy for the Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

