



**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 10, 2023, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of
HB 1194
**RELATING TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLANNING
ORGANIZATION.**

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** HB 1194, which would establish and designate OPSD to organize an economic development district (EDD) planning organization and board to qualify the State of Hawai'i for an EDD designation by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This measure establishes positions and appropriates funds to OPSD.

An EDD designation for the State of Hawai'i by the EDA requires a dedicated district planning organization and board that will build partnerships and promote cooperation across the State, including private sector, government, community, labor organizations, higher education, and workforce development boards. In doing so, the planning organization will facilitate implementation of the Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) by assisting other organizations within the State with applications for federal grant funding to implement projects that align with the CEDS. Furthermore, the planning organization will serve as a coordinating body to ensure alignment with other relevant plans and statewide goals.

The State of Hawai'i stands to benefit significantly from an EDD designation as it will result in increased federal funding to support the continuous development and implementation of the CEDS. In addition to providing annual funds to support the coordination activities of the EDD planning organization, the EDA is much more likely to award funds to projects within a designated EDD, according to the EDA.

This measure will provide the necessary resources and satisfy the statutory requirements pursuant to 13 CFR § 304.1 to qualify Hawai'i for an EDD designation by the EDA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.