



**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
JENNIFER CHUN
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
Research and Economic Analysis Division,
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Friday, March 27, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HCR191 / HR181
**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL HAWAII GENUINE PROGRESS INDICATOR
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE NO LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO THE
CONVENING OF EACH REGULAR SESSION, BEGINNING WITH THE REGULAR
SESSION OF 2027.**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments regarding HCR191 / HR181, which urges DBEDT to submit an annual report to the legislature regarding the Hawai'i Genuine Progress (GPI).

The Research and Economic Analysis Division of DBEDT updates data annually for the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) web site which can be viewed at:

<https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/hawaii-genuine-progress-indicator-hi-gpi/>

GPI goes beyond traditional economic indicators and offers insight regarding social and environmental indicators. DBEDT concurs that this report would enhance legislative understanding of Hawaii's economic welfare, guide policy development, and enable evidence-based decision-making rooted in broader measures of well-being. The

one comment we have is that this resolution requests an “annual” report and, due to staff limitations and potential future requests from the legislature, there may be years that we may not be able to fulfill this request. We recommend the wording be changed to “annual report, subject to availability of resources within DBEDT.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: House Committee Economic Development & Technology
Re: **HCR191 / HR181– Urging the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to submit an annual Hawai'i Genuine Progress Indicator report to the Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning with the regular session of 2027.**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
March 27, 2026, 9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HCR191 / HR181**. These resolutions urge the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to submit an annual Hawai'i Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) report to the Legislature.

For many families across Hawai'i, economic growth has not translated into greater stability or well-being. Many of the families in your districts may have both parents working full-time, yet still struggle to afford rent, childcare, and groceries—leaving little time to spend together. Traditional economic growth and business climate measures do not capture these realities.

The GPI would provide a more accurate picture of economic progress by accounting for factors that matter to families—such as cost of living, environmental quality, and the value of unpaid caregiving. These are essential to understanding whether our economy is truly supporting our 'ohana.¹

In 2022, DBEDT funded a report, "*Updating the Genuine Progress Indicator for the State of Hawai'i*,"² and it makes sense to update that report annually. A practical, data-driven measure like the GPI would help you better evaluate whether our economic policies are aligned not just with increased economic output, but also with improved quality of life for our children and families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass these resolutions.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gpi.asp>

² <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/hawaii-genuine-progress-indicator-hi-gpi/>