



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

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:01 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**SB 2187**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM.**

Chairs DeCoite and Chang, Vice Chairs Wakai and Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) respectfully offers comments on SB2187, which proposes to rename DBEDT as the Department of Housing, Economic Development, and Tourism.

We acknowledge the intent of this measure and note that DBEDT's priorities are already in alignment with the State's housing policy goals and the dedicated development of housing for individuals and families across all income levels.

Under the current structure, the department's statutory mandate and operational framework already encompass housing development as a core function. As part of DBEDT's mission, our attached agencies – including the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, and the Office of Sustainable Development – work collaboratively to foster planned community development and produce affordable workforce housing in high-quality living environments.

DBEDT executes housing policy objectives by financing, planning and delivering integrated community development projects statewide and remains committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing, leveraging public-private partnerships and supporting strategic infrastructure investments that expand the State's overall housing capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.