



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
10:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

**SB 1529, SD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE.**

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **offers comments** on SB 1529, SD 1, which establishes the Hawaii State Energy Office and the Deputy Director of Energy, amends and transfers the duties of the Energy Resources Coordinator from the DBEDT Director to the Deputy Director of Energy. It also repeals the Energy Security Special Fund and directs that fees from variances under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 196-6.5 be deposited to an unspecified fund and that the renewable energy facilitator position be funded by a different source. Moreover, the Hawaii State Energy Office would be funded by general revenues of an unspecified amount.

The environmental response, energy, and food security tax through the energy security special fund has been an important source of funding for DBEDT's energy operations. It is imperative that current funding levels be at least maintained for DBEDT to continue its operations in support of Hawaii's clean energy initiatives.

DBEDT notes that creating another office takes careful planning and consideration of not only the employees but also budgetary issues. Without such planning, it would be premature to create another office as being proposed by this measure. We are open to discussion and dialogue with the Chairs of the committees to hear your concerns.

We respectfully ask that the Legislature please minimize any negative impacts to the Governor's budget priorities.

We note the title of this measure refers to the Hawaii Energy and Climate Change Office but there is no mention of such in the current form of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill.

**SB-1529-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:49:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1529-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:17:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
alexandra gorbacheva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our states energy and climate change position should be priority. Establishing people and ground rules will only help us in the future to make more drastic changes.