



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
HIGHER EDUCATION**

Thursday, March 19, 2009

3:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

**HB 281 HD 3
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT**

Chairs Gabbard and Tokuda, and Vice Chairs English and Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The Department opposes this bill. We share the concerns of our sister agency DLIR with regard to the source and use of funding and defer to their expertise in this area. We do, however, agree with the committee that facing the budget shortfalls of the next biennium, it is imperative that we take full advantage of opportunities to leverage limited State resources by accessing Federal and other private resources.

This bill designates that the Department of Business and Economic Development develop a policy framework to create a highly skilled and well-trained "green collar" workforce that meets needs of emerging "green" economic sector. We want to assure the committees that the Department has been active in the development of a highly-skilled and well-trained workforce through programs that are focusing on aligning workforce, education and economic development. This alignment has evolved many partnerships with sister agencies, educational institutions and community organizations. These partnerships will play a large role in developing Hawaii's green workforce. For these reasons, the Department has been meeting regularly with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to prepare for the anticipated solicitation and supports their role as partners in framing the policy and potential application. It has included workforce development issues as related to the Clean Energy Initiative -- defined in

HRS Chapters 201, 226, 269 -- to address issues of environment (recycling) and energy efficiency and the development renewable energy sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.