

MAR 04 2010

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND ASSESS HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM MAY BE RESTRUCTURED AND ITS MISSION REDIRECTED.

1 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 76, H.D. 1,  
2 S.D. 1, 2009, established a Task Force on Reinventing Government  
3 (Task Force) to examine the existing operations and  
4 organizations of Hawaii's state government and recommend ways to  
5 make Hawaii's government more efficient; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the Task Force was formed in October 2009 and  
8 gathered together a varied group of government leaders, state  
9 agency and department heads, community leaders, nonprofit  
10 organization leaders, and business executives from around the  
11 State; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, in light of the financial strain that Hawaii faces  
14 due to the world economic downturn and resulting decline in tax  
15 revenue, the group was tasked with examining opportunities to  
16 reevaluate and restructure state government operations and  
17 organizations to do more with fewer resources in order to  
18 weather current economic crises and prepare for future  
19 challenges; and  
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21 WHEREAS, at its final meeting on January 4, 2010, the Task  
22 Force adopted a number of recommendations, including  
23 recommendations to improve government efficiency in the  
24 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
25 (DBEDT); and  
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27 WHEREAS, the Task Force recommended that the mission of  
28 DBEDT be better defined and prioritized to function as a  
29 facilitator and clearinghouse and to offer strategic directions  
30 for business development; and  
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32 WHEREAS, DBEDT presently serves as a "catch-all" agency  
33 that takes in functions not covered by other state agencies,  
34 including the Foreign Trade Zone, Aloha Tower Development  
35 Corporation, Hawaii Tourism Authority, the Center of Excellence



1 for Ocean Science, and the Land Use Commission, among others;  
2 and  
3

4 WHEREAS, as a result of this lack of focus, DBEDT is unable  
5 to make a significant difference in the areas that it serves,  
6 and despite the best efforts of staff, the agency is doomed to  
7 ineffectiveness and inefficiency due to the lack of policy  
8 direction regarding its true mission and purpose; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, DBEDT would best serve its constituent groups as a  
11 resource for business development and as a clearinghouse for  
12 other entities, such as the respective Economic Development  
13 Boards on each island; now, therefore,  
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,  
17 that there is established a joint government and private sector  
18 task force to study and assess how the Department of Business,  
19 Economic Development, and Tourism may be restructured and its  
20 mission redirected to change the focus from a "hands-on" agency  
21 to a "facilitative" agency that serves as a clearinghouse for  
22 other entities; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include, but not be  
25 limited to:  
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- 27 (1) An assessment of existing private resources, such as  
28 the Economic Development Boards on each island, among  
29 others, which could be used to facilitate economic  
30 development;
- 31 (2) Cost savings that may be achieved through  
32 organizational and program restructuring;
- 33 (3) Legislative measures that would be required to  
34 effectuate DBEDT's organizational and program  
35 restructuring; and  
36
- 37 (4) Any other information that may be applicable; and  
38  
39  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force  
42 shall include representatives of DBEDT, the four county Economic  
43 Development Boards, Hawaii Business Roundtable, The Chamber of  
44 Commerce of Hawaii, and other members as may be appropriate; and



1  
 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its  
 3 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than  
 4 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 5 2011; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic  
 9 Development, and Tourism; the Directors of Enterprise Honolulu  
 10 and the Economic Development Boards of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii;  
 11 the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable, the  
 12 President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.  
 13  
 14  
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