



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Friday, January 31, 2025
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
H.B. No. 1391
RELATING TO TRADE.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments to H.B. No.1391 which establishes the Hawaii-Ireland trade commission within DBEDT.

Such a commission could help identify trade opportunities and provide a pathway to bring these opportunities with Ireland to fruition. Areas of economic development, educational opportunities for students and academics, energy, governance, and the sharing of knowledge regarding global concerns could be pursued.

This program will significantly contribute to Hawaii's role and position in international affairs, and align with Hawaii's goals in economic development, international relations and education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1391

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:14:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/31/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Honma	APEC Hawaii	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony By

Russell Honma H.B. No. 1391

House Committee ECD

January 31, 2025

10:00 A.M.

TO: House Chair Greggor Ilagan Economic Development and Technology (ECA) Committee:

THRU: House Vice Chair Hussey Ikaika Economic Development and Technology (ECA) Committee:

DATE: January 31, 2025

SUBJECT : Hawaii House Bill No. 1391 on Establishing a Hawaii-Ireland Trade Commission:

Dear Representatives of Hawaii House Economic Development and Technology Committee:

Aloha !

Good Morning Representatives and colleagues at the Hawaii State Legislature As you know my name is Russell Honma, Executive Director of APEC Hawaii and Author of the APEC Master Plan and its 'Strategic Business Plans' and newly published book 'Blue Print'. In the past both the Senate President & Speaker of House and past Governors has nominated me for my efforts preparing the APEC Master Plan and its Strategic Business Plans for a 'Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Award for bring Peace, Security, Economics Prosperity & Unity to the Indo Pacific Region.

I am here today to testify and advise you to change the language to 'United States, Hawaii supports the measure establishing a U.S., Hawaii - European Union Trade Commission. We shall omit the language of "Hawaii - Ireland Trade Commission" and replace it with "U.S., Hawaii - European Union Trade Commission". This way there shouldn't have prejudice by other Europeans, besides the relationship with Britain and Ireland. This shall not be jeopardize the relationships of Euro

Zones with European Union plus BREIX. We understand the history we have with Ireland and the Irish Community in Hawaii and we strongly support the historical relationship with Hawaii and Ireland since the Hawaii Kingdom and its monarchy days.

Whereas, at this time we shall be establishing the European Union and APEC Alliance Partnership Group to promote the well being of the Europeans and Asians working, playing and living together to bring Peace, Security, Economic Prosperity and Unity to Asia Pacific Region.

Whereas, the State of Hawaii and its business can tremendously benefit with working together with State of California and its businesses regarding establishing a European Union and APEC Alliance Partnership Group.

The European Union and APEC Alliance Partnership Group is planning on assisting and supporting the economic recovery efforts from the recent devastation caused by the Los Angeles, California Wildfire. As you know during the Lāhainā, Maui Wildfire and State of California and the residents of California had help and assist the victims of the Maui Wildfire and its economic recovery efforts.

Therefore, in return the State of Hawaii and its Hawaii residents shall help out and assist the victims of Los Angeles, California with its economic recovery efforts.

For those reasons I recommend that we omit and change the language of H.B. No. 1391 of “Hawaii - Ireland Trade Commission” and replace it with “U.S., Hawaii - European Union Trade Commission“. Changing the language format is the proper political protocol.

If you have any questions please contact me at:Russellhonma@yahoo.com or call at:(808) 265-5261.

All goes best !

Russell Honma

Executive Director

APEC Master Plan Author

APEC Hawaii

c/o: Author of the ‘Blue Print’ - APEC Hawaii Foundation

cc: House Representative Daniel Holt

House Representative Adrian K. Tam

House Representative Shirley A. Templo

House Representative Chris Todd

House Representative Lauren Matsumoto

