



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

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
**HCR 119**  
**ENDORING TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, SUPPORTING THE  
SIGNING OF A UNITED STATES-TAIWAN BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, AND  
COMMEMORATING THE RELATIONSHIPS AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE  
STATE OF HAWAII AND TAIWAN.**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports **HCR 119** endorsing Taiwan's participation in the international community, advocating for the signing of a United States-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement, and celebrating the strong and enduring relationships between the State of Hawai'i and Taiwan. These actions reflect our shared values, our commitment to democratic ideals, and the ongoing partnership between our people that benefits both Taiwan and the United States.

DBEDT and its Business Development and Support Division (DBEDT/BDSD) believe Taiwan is a valuable economic and strategic partner for Hawai'i, and the potential benefits of strengthening our ties with Taiwan are numerous. Taiwan is already a key trading partner for our state, and a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan could open new opportunities for economic growth and job creation in Hawai'i.

Additionally, the cultural and educational exchanges between Hawai'i and Taiwan are invaluable in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. By deepening our relationship with Taiwan, we can enhance opportunities for collaboration in various fields, such as tourism, education, technology, and environmental protection.

Through the State of Hawai'i Office in Taipei, DBEDT/BDSO has been working with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Honolulu to promote economic growth, enhance cultural exchanges, and advance shared values and goals that benefit both Hawai'i and Taiwan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.