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February 26, 2009

TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
For Hearing on Friday, February 27, 2009
11:00 A.M., Conference Room 308

BY

MARIE C. LADERTA, DIRECTOR

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**House Bill No. 1502
Relating to Telework**

TO CHAIRPERSON OSHIRO AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of House Bill 1502 is to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive plan that will encourage and expand telework opportunities in Hawaii while reducing harmful environmental impacts, traffic congestion, the dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage a better quality of life for people who commute to work in Hawaii.

The Department of Human Resources Development has concerns about the current fiscal condition. Given that appropriations would be required for a telework task force, including funds for the administrative cost of staffing a task force and funds to maintain the security of the computer systems and data, it

would not be prudent to have a telework task force in the current economic climate.

As part of the recent Four Day Work Week pilot project conducted in the Fall of 2008, the department conducted a small Telework/Telecommuting mini-pilot project to assess the feasibility and applicability of implementing a "Telework" work environment across appropriate job classes within the department. The Department is currently assessing the project and analyzing the data.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2009
11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308
Agenda #2**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1502 RELATING TO TELEWORK

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). I am here to state The Chamber's general support to House Bill No. 1502, relating to telework.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

HB 1502 establishes the telework task force to develop a comprehensive plan that will encourage and expand telework opportunities in Hawaii while reducing harmful environmental impacts, traffic congestion, the dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage a better quality of life for people who commute to work in Hawaii.

Telework is a concept that changes the notion of work being a place to work being a process or activity. With today's affordable PCs, Internet access, on line services and software designed to support teleworking; businesses are in a position to leverage the concept.

During this tough economic period, we should look for options that stimulate the economy while balancing the social and economic landscapes. Therefore, the Chamber generally supports a telework task force to evaluate how we can effectively develop a comprehensive plan without imposing mandates on businesses and compromising their ability to run their firm effectively.

Keeping up with the rules and regulations contribute greatly to the cost of doing business in Hawaii. Therefore, providing incentives to businesses, especially small ones would help them stay viable as well as stimulate growth in our economy.

Thus, The Chamber respectfully requests HB 1502 be passed for further discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



VIA Capitol Website

February 27, 2009

House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date: Friday, February 27, 2009, 11:00 a.m. in CR 308

Testimony in Support of HB 1502– Relating to Telework
(Establishes telework task force to develop plan to encourage telework opportunities.)

Honorable Chair Marcus B. Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee and Finance
Committee Members:

My name is David Arakawa and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Association (“LOTMA”) in **support** of HB 1502 relating to telework and establishing a task force that will help develop a plan for promotion of telework.

Background. LOTMA was incorporated in 1990, in an effort to collaboratively unite all of the major Leeward and Central Oahu region’s landowners and developers to address mobility issues and accommodate the increasing transportation needs of this rapidly growing region. LOTMA’s mission is to advocate, develop, and implement, in cooperation with government and the community, a coherent program aimed at improving mobility in Leeward and Central regions of Oahu; and to promote and facilitate the development and use of alternative transportation opportunities that would maximize the use of existing and proposed transportation systems in the Leeward/Central region.

HB 1502. The purpose of this bill is to establish a temporary telework task force. The task force shall develop a comprehensive plan to encourage and expand telework opportunities in both the public and private sectors that will help to alleviate the high transportation-related expenses of commuting, reduce Hawaii’s dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic congestion on Hawaii’s roadways, and provide the workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more time either working from home or with their families, rather than in traffic.

This bill will establish the temporary telework task force within the department of business, economic development, and tourism for administrative purposes only, to work in coordination with the department of human resources development.

LOTMA’s Position. LOTMA’s priorities include finding ways to reduce traffic from Leeward and Central Oahu and a telework initiative would address this issue.

Other states such as Arizona, California, and Oregon have all been successful in implementing policies to encourage workplace flexibility for their state employees. There also have been studies showing that these programs increase employee productivity and motivation, increases employee efficiency, improves quality of life, and reduces pollution and energy consumption.

For residents of West Oahu, they know first hand how bad traffic is, when traffic is compared to days when university students are in session to days when university students are on vacation. The workplace flexibility options that telecommuting offers will decrease traffic congestion and improve overall quality of life for island residents. The development of a task force thru HB 1502 would indicate whether telework would appeal to Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support** of HB 1502.