

LATE TESTIMONY

HAWAII HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 2010

TIME: 2:30PM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair

Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2065 RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

Good Morning Chair McKelvey, Chair Herkes, and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2065 RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD that transfers the administrative assignment of the small business regulatory review board from the department of business, economic development, and tourism to the department of commerce and consumer affairs.

I am familiar with this program because I have had the opportunity to work in the CBED Program and the EZ Program with program manager Wayne Thom for two years during the

1990s. **The Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB)** has assisted Hawaii's small business community with addressing regulatory concerns of Hawaii's small business owners. In my humble opinion, I believe that the most cost effective and community effective programs for small businesses and small business startups in the state is presently being downsized, gutted or threatened into extinction by the Director of DBEDT and the Lingle Administration. **The Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB)** has done an effective and efficient job for the State of Hawaii in generating revenue, advertising and cutting regulatory red tape for small businesses. **The elimination or reduction in managers and staffing within this program severely undermines the effectiveness and efficiency of work for our state.** Small Business is a main generator of jobs in the State of Hawaii and The Small Business Regulatory Review Board assists small businesses in maneuvering through the red tape of doing business in the state of Hawaii.

THE SBRRB currently FACES A SUPPORT DILEMMA as DBEDT is *reluctantly* funding SBRRB meetings, which provides for the most part, the cost of transportation for our neighbor island members. Previously, there were two (2) staff positions that provided much needed support for the board however that has currently been reduced to one TEMPORARY overseer where previously the BUSINESS ADVOCATE at DBEDT provided total support for the board, and for the State's business advocacy assistance.

The SBRRB is *cut off at the knees* in its role as a Small Business Advocate Board in Hawaii. In short, DBEDT has abandoned the Small Business Advocate position and small business mission role in the State of Hawaii, a role that it has been tasked to do since DBEDT's inception. No small business support by the state equates to a *no jobs* scenario in Hawaii State.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 2065 RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD WHICH TRANSFERS THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify on this matter.

Submitted by:

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