

GM619

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, RACHEL JAMES, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURSIM

TESTIMONY

GM619 Submitting for consideration and confirmation

To the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council,

Gubernatorial Nominee,

RACHEL MARIE JAMES for a term to expire

6-30-2017

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

BY

RACHEL JAMES

SENIOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN TULSI
GABBARD

APRIL 13, 2015

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Committee members:

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my testimony regarding GM619 confirmation of myself, (Rachel Marie James) to be appointed to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

I wish to be a member of the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council because I believe in the value of community-based solutions and wish to contribute as I am able to support such efforts in the state of Hawaii. I have been fortunate enough to work with non-profit organizations for a number of years, which is where I gained a true appreciation for small scale solutions that have large impacts. I feel strongly that recognizing the bright spots within a community and supporting and sharing those efforts is the way forward to bring about sustainable economic development.

I perceive that the role and responsibilities of a Council member to be granted to those who have both a keen sense of economic development and the ability to engage and communicate with the various stakeholders who comprise and contribute to a community's vitality. In my current position in Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard's office I have the privilege to engage with stakeholders from across the economic spectrum, both within and outside of the federal government. I believe strongly that this varied engagement lends itself well to collaborative partnership development as I am able to make real-time, relevant referrals or suggestions regarding stakeholder input.

Given my understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Council, I believe that both my educational and professional experience qualify me for the position. I hold both a Bachelor of Science in Business-Accounting and a Master of Arts in Global Leadership and Sustainable Development with a focus on Community Development. Through the pursuit of these educational achievements, I learned some of the basic concepts of business and the interplay of economics and sustainable communities. I have been fortunate to work for non-profits where I have experienced and been a part of the at times challenging process of identifying revenue streams that not only support operations but allow creative liberty and opportunities to innovate. Through my volunteer work with Kuleana Microlending, a local non-profit focused on providing access to small loans for current and aspiring women in business, I have been able to connect with various members of the entrepreneurial community in multiple stages of business development. Currently in my position with the federal government, I have the opportunity to engage both with state and federal agencies focused on economic development while continuing to connect with those in the community who are contributing to and creating the economic ecosystem they need to thrive. I would not purport to myself have the expertise, skills and knowledge needed to forward community-based economic development in the state, rather I believe my value is in my community engagement. I do not know all of the answers, but feel confident that I know the people who can together realize the most advantageous solutions.

I believe that valuing good ideas for what they are, and not valuing the idea simply weighted by the person from whom the idea came is imperative to encouraging innovative solutions. Humble engagement coupled with a collaborative approach to solution discovery has been beneficial in identifying pathways forward that are mutually beneficial and that in some cases pave the way for others as well. I remain hopeful that focusing locally and beginning with community-based ideas and initiatives will yield sustainable solutions.

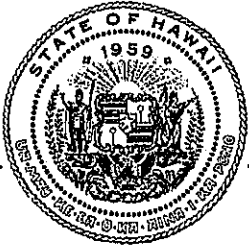
An experience that embodied a number of the points I've mentioned stands out to me. If I may share briefly about my work with a Kuleana Microlending client who wanted to start his (when Kuleana began we worked with both male and female clients) own cleaning business. This gentleman had experienced a number of challenging setbacks that made realizing his dream of being a small business owner a particularly ambitious endeavor. After working with him and his family for nearly two years, we were able to not only link him with the capital needed to open his business but worked with him on the various aspects of small business ownership to include permitting, bookkeeping, and licensing. What I learned from that process, and what I believe will benefit the Council is that I did not need to find the solutions for this particular client. My role and that of Kuleana's was to support his ambition by providing sound guidance and access to resources. That understanding served this gentleman well and I believe it is an approach that particularly in government would serve similarly. I have encountered the argument that holds the government solely responsible for the care of the people it represents. I however, believe firmly that true care is providing pathways to success and holding those who are able and willing to embark on the journey accountable for their own progress. It is the responsibility of government to support the infrastructure conducive to sustainable success, while ensuring equal access to the tools and supports needed to encourage responsible development. My experience with the Kuleana client and subsequent experiences have strengthened this viewpoint which I believe would lend itself well to the mission of the Community-Based Economic Development Council.

If confirmed, I hope to continue connecting with those in the community who are advancing sustainable economic development initiatives and to maintain and improve the connection the state government has with community-based economic development stakeholders.

Again, mahalo for this opportunity to share and to be of service.

Sincerely,

Rachel M. James



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
GM 619
Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Slom and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports GM 619, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **RACHEL JAMES**, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Ms. James currently serves as a staff member for Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, and assists in communicating with constituents to address community concerns. She also develops collaborative relationships with various government agencies and participates in and coordinates community outreach opportunities. Ms. James' community service experience includes serving as a Board member for Kuleana Microlending, working with communities to support small business endeavors. In addition, she also volunteers as a Housing and Intake Specialist with the Catholic Charities Hawaii Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program.

The Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Program incorporates community vision and values into an effective strategy to achieve community economic goals. The experience and skills Rachel James brings to the CBED Program and CBED Advisory Council will prove invaluable to our State, Department and our communities.

We ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of Rachel James to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURSIM

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PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

BY

Denise Esposito

Director, Patsy T. Mink Center for Business & Leadership

4/14/15

Senator Glenn Wakai
Chairman Economic Development and Technology Committee
Senatorial District 15
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Sam Slom
Senatorial District 9
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 214
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: The nomination of Ms. Rachel James to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council

Dear Senators,

As the Director of the Patsy T. Mink Center for Business & Leadership, I was pleased to learn that Rachel James has been nominated to continue her service as a member of the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council.

I am familiar with the work of Ms. James through her position as a member of the Advisory Board with the Patsy T. Mink Center for Business & Leadership. While at the Mink Center, Rachel worked diligently to seek solutions to day to day challenges as well as worked collaboratively with the team to ensure mission completion. As the Director, I work with the Advisory Board to develop fundraising strategy to start-up and sustain the goals, objectives and activities of the Mink Center, including SBA start-up funding and other community funding, as necessary.

Rachel brings experience from a diverse background of service, most currently forwarding her service to the community with the office of Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. Under the leadership of Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, whose strong support of technology and innovation within the state and across the nation allows Rachel an opportunity to use her previous year's experiences to contribute to solutions for members of rural and urban communities across the state. The experiences Rachel gained through her years of volunteerism evidence her service-oriented work ethic and her belief in building community partnerships.

In her position with the local non-profit, Kuleana Microlending, Rachel has worked with current and aspiring small business owners to support them in their pursuit of small business establishment and or expansion. She has also volunteered her time as the secretary of the Hawaii Women Military Veterans Task Force, working to identify successes and areas for improvement of services for Hawaii Women Military Veterans and recently joined the Advisory Board for the Patsy T. Mink Center for Business and Leadership.

Rachel's coordination and collaboration with both government and private community service providers gives her an in depth perspective in the work of addressing community-based economic development concerns. Her experience and drive are valuable additions to the team here at the Mink Center. My experience with Rachel James encourages me to support her nomination as I believe the State will benefit from appointing Rachel as a member of the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council.

Sincerely,



Denise Esposito

Director, Patsy T. Mink Center for Business & Leadership

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BY

NAME: Diana Dymarsky

TITLE: President, Go Ramble ,Inc.

DATE: 4/14/15

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Committee members:

I am Diana Dymarsky, President of Go Ramble, Inc. I support GM619 confirmation of Rachel Marie James to be appointed to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

I have had the opportunity to work with Rachel James in her capacity as a volunteer with Kuleana Microlending.

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PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

BY

John Cheever

President, Executive Director, Kuleana Micro-Lending

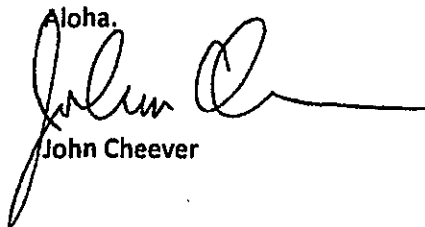
April 13, 2015

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Committee members:

My name is John Cheever, President/Executive Director at Kuleana Micro-Lending. I support GM619 confirmation of Rachel Marie James to be appointed to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

I have had the opportunity to work with Rachel James in her capacity as a volunteer with Kuleana Microlending. She is very capable, dependable, and easy to work with. I have no doubt she will be an asset to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cheever", written over a horizontal line.

John Cheever