



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY**

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #229

In consideration of
SCR126
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS TO CO-CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON
THE PRIORITY ECONOMIC CLUSTERS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, TO MEET THE NEEDS
OF THE STATE'S NEW ECONOMY.**

Chairs DeCoite and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Wakai and Lee and Members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SCR126 that develops a comprehensive plan for workforce development with a focus on priority economic clusters established by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

This resolution allows both DBEDT and DLIR to address the future of work and the implication of the acceleration and proliferation of automation and digitization on economic priority areas and the workforce that support these economic clusters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair,
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and
Tourism

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair,
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor & Technology

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.C.R. 126 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CO-CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON THE PRIORITY ECONOMIC CLUSTERS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE STATE'S NEW ECONOMY

The department **supports** this measure. SCR126 requests the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the DLIR to co-convene a working group to develop a comprehensive plan for workforce development with a focus on priority economic clusters identified by DBEDT.

DBEDT has the ability to provide much of the data identified in the measure for the requested report as Act 88, SLH 2021, eliminated DLIR's Research & Statistics Office and transferred the majority of the staff to DBEDT. The DLIR supports this effort to increase the State's coordination on comprehensive workforce development efforts and plans.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

By
Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 126 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CO-CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON THE PRIORITY ECONOMIC CLUSTERS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE STATE'S NEW ECONOMY

Chairs DeCoite and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Wakai and Lee, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 126. The University of Hawai'i (University) supports the intent of SCR 126 and stands ready to collaborate with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) and the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to create pathways into essential sectors in the State.

The University works closely with the Department of Education and Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education to develop educational pathways that meet current and future labor market needs. We are committed to continuing our work with DLIR and DBEDT to gain even more clarity about labor market needs throughout the State so that we can effectively design programs for students to meet labor market needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the intent of SCR 126 and the University's collaborative efforts to further workforce development.



**Testimony to
The Committees on Energy Economic Development, and Tourism
And on Labor and Technology**

Tuesday, March 28, 2023


1:00 PM

**Conference Room 229 & VIA videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol**

SCR 126

Chairs DeCoite and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Wakai and Lee, and members of the committees,

Hawaii Gas **supports SCR 126**, which requests the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to co-convene a working group to develop a comprehensive plan for workforce development with a focus on the priority economic clusters established by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to meet the needs of the State’s new economy.

Established in 1904, Hawaii Gas serves over 70,000 customers on all islands through its pipeline and delivery services, all of whom depend on the company for sustainable, reliable, and affordable gas for water heating, cooking, drying, and other commercial and industrial applications. The company employs some 350 professionals, over 75% of whom are members of the Teamsters Union. 

Hawaii Gas distributes a blend of gas that ranges from low-carbon to negative-carbon emissions through approximately 1,100 miles of mostly underground utility pipeline statewide. Our main utility system includes a blend of gas that includes Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and Hydrogen. Hawaii Gas leads the industry in the use of hydrogen in its pipeline.

Hawaii Gas agrees that the COVID-19 pandemic shifted traditional workforce dynamics in ways that aren’t likely to revert to pre-pandemic traditions, and we believe it is wise for the State to take a holistic look at these shifts and identify opportunities to enhance the State’s new economy.

Further, the energy cluster is critical to Hawaii’s resiliency, reliability, and long-term jobs creation. Should this measure be enacted, Hawaii Gas would welcome the opportunity to participate in that cluster’s work.

We urge the committee to pass the measure.

 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Written Statement of
Jeannine Souki
Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & TECHNOLOGY**

March 28, 2023 – 1 PM
Conference Room 229, Hawai'i State Capitol

SUPPORT FOR:

S.C.R. 126 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CO-CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON THE PRIORITY ECONOMIC CLUSTERS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE STATE'S NEW ECONOMY

To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Labor & Technology

Re: Testimony providing support for SCR 126

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written support for SCR 126, which requests the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (“DBEDT”) and the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (“DLIR”) to co-convene a working group to develop a comprehensive plan for workforce development with a focus on the priority of economic clusters established by DBEDT to meet the needs of the State’s new economy.

Hawaiian Telcom stands in support of SCR 126 because we believe that developing a skilled and sufficient workforce for building and maintaining our high-speed broadband fiber, in both specialized telecommunications technology and construction jobs is required as Hawaiian Telcom continues its

improvement and deployment of broadband infrastructure in the State. Diversifying and cultivating economic development in Hawai‘i, especially in areas of digital technology, artificial intelligence and the proliferation of the Internet of Things (IoT) is also necessary to ensure the State’s future economic success as ramping up of automation and the digital economy continue to transform how we live.

Over the last three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected every one of us in countless ways. For Hawaiian Telcom, it has solidified the importance of staying connected with ‘ohana, our customers, and our communities; and it has accelerated our efforts to grow our fiber network to meet ever-increasing consumer needs for high-speed broadband service, especially in areas in which connectivity is lacking. As Hawaiian Telcom continues to build new fiber broadband connections across the state, underserved areas like Na‘alehu will be able to leverage the economic benefits of high-speed fiber connections experienced in Honolulu’s urban areas.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on SCR 126, and urge your Committee’s support for this resolution.

