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**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
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Statement of  
**BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO**  
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
2:00PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
**HB1556, HD1, RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYMENT**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the members of the committee.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) is in **support** of HB 1556, HD1.

The purpose of this bill is to establish and appropriate funds for permanent positions within the Employee Staffing Division (ESD) of the DHRD, aimed at recruiting and retaining state employees.

DHRD concurs with this measure and recognizes the impact additional resources will provide to recruit and retain state employees. As the central recruiting office for the State Executive Branch, it is imperative that we continually adapt to the ever-changing landscape of the labor market. Over the last few years, the ESD has lost approximately 30% of its authorized staffing positions while experiencing a 32% increase in applications received. The added workload, along with the decrease in resources, has created an unacceptable delay in filling State vacancies. The addition of these ten positions would provide the much-needed boost to the ESD to decrease the application processing time by as much as 50%. These positions will also enable us to better brand the State as an employer of choice through innovative initiatives and community outreach.

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