



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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SYLVIA LUKE LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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#### Statement of JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism before the

#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 1:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of HB1956, HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) appreciates and supports HB1956, HD1, which establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens. Hawaii continues to be ranked low in terms of business opportunities and economic competitiveness by many organizations. The low rankings largely reflect the uniqueness of Hawaii's geographic location and its economic structure. For example, Hawaii is the only state geographically isolated from the continent and labor mobility is limited. Hawaii is a smaller market for new products, has a high cost of living, and its economy relies heavily on a few industries.

Economic development is a complex process. Hawaii needs to balance economic growth with environmental concerns, social equity, and government finances. For further economic development, the state needs an adequate labor force, capital investment, and innovation in the way goods and services are produced.

Establishing a task force is an important means of collecting ideas from stakeholders and addressing ways to address the challenges the state faces. Because of the complexity of our economic system, we recommend extending participation to representatives of the University of Hawaii, the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the State Department of Taxation. Funding in the amount of \$200,000 for one FTE or hiring a consulting firm would be needed to carry out the purpose of this bill.

We support this bill; provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



#### SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

Tel: 808 798-0737

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel Street, Fifth Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, HI 96804 Email: dbedt.sbrrb.info@hawaii.gov

Website: sbrrb.hawaii.gov

Josh Green, M.D. Governor

Sylvia Luke Lt. Governor

James Kunane Tokioka DBEDT Director

**Dane K. Wicker** DBEDT Deputy Director

#### Members

Mary Albitz Chairperson Maui

Robert Cundiff Vice Chairperson Oʻahu

Jonathan Shick 2nd Vice Chairperson Oʻahu

Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch *Oʻahu* 

William Lydgate Kaua'i

James (Kimo) Lee Hawai'i

Garth Yamanaka Hawai'i

Sanford Morioka

Tessa Gomes Oʻahu

Mark Ritchie for Director, DBEDT Voting Ex Officio

#### **TESTIMONY**

**TO:** Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate

Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

FROM: Mary Albitz, Chair, Small Business Regulatory Review Board

(SBRRB) Mary Albitz

**DATE:** March 12, 2024 – Room 229 & Videoconference at 1:00 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** Support – House Bill 1956 HD1 – Relating to Economic Development

On behalf of the SBRRB, I submit this testimony in <u>support</u> of House Bill 1956 HD1, Relating to Economic Development.

Specifically, House Bill 1956 HD1 establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens, and requires a report to the legislature. The task force shall consist of, among others, a member of the small business regulatory review board, to be appointed by the chair of the board.

I am proud of the success and accomplishments this hardworking group of gratis members has had over the past 25+ years. This measure will ensure the stability of the SBRRB by including one of its members to partake in creating a report to the legislature consisting of findings and recommendations that encompasses the mitigation of regulatory and tax burdens of Hawaii's businesses.

Thank you for hearing our comments and the SBRRB's support of House Bill1956 HD1.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759 Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921 e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 12, 2024

### HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

## TESTIMONY ON HB 1956, HD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference 1:00 PM

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1956, HD1, which establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens.

Farming is a tough business. High production costs are a major driver of narrow profit margins for Hawai i's farmers and ranchers. Land, water, labor, taxes, transportation, utilities, inputs, invasive species, and food safety regulations are all costs of doing business that often result in our farmers just being able to break even. HFB supports any initiative that can reduce the cost of production so that locally produced goods can compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

New agriculture census data (2022) released by USDA last month is cause for concern as the number of farms operating in Hawai i and the number of farm acres have both fallen. The 2022 Census of Agriculture reports 759 fewer farms in 2022 than in 2017 (10.4% decrease). The number of farm acres fell to 1,053,302, a loss of more than 82,000 acres from just five years earlier.

The strength of Hawai'i's economy is dependent upon a diversity in commerce that is resilient to economic downturns and aggressive in creating new growth opportunities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



# Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 1PM Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

#### **RE: HB1956 HD1 Relating to Economic Development**

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB1956 HD1**, which establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens, and requires a report to the legislature.

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to support this bill and believes this task force is critical to support the future economic resilience and growth of our local business community. The intent of this bill is to bring government and business leaders together to review existing processes and procedures in state government and identify ways to streamline and reduce red tape to expand and grow our economy. In Hawaii, small businesses employ most of the local workforce but their ability to hire and grow is hindered by costly employer mandates, restrictive and lengthy regulatory frameworks and higher than average tax burdens. This assertion is well founded and notably based on the following:

#### Hawaii consistently ranks as one of the worst states to do business.

- <u>1st most restrictive land use regulations in the nation</u>, University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization
- 5th year in a row more people moved out of Hawaii than moved into the state, 2020 U.S. Census
- 43rd Ranking, State Business Tax Climate Index, U.S. Tax Foundation
- 47th Ranking, Top states for business, CNBC
- 48th Ranking, Most policy measures and costs impacting entrepreneurship & small business growth, SBE Council

The Chamber completed its 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii Initiative earlier this year. The vision was to create a data-based action plan for Business to lead and shape Hawaii's economic future as a top place to do business. We connected with stakeholders from business, government & community to shape goals and priorities and develop a strategy that presents achievable policy reforms and metrics to increase Hawaii's economic competitiveness.

Through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and extensive research it was made clear that overregulation at every level of government is hindering business growth and preventing new businesses and entrepreneurs from investing in Hawaii. We believe this task force is a critical method for state government leaders and the business community to come together to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawaii.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



#### Written Statement of

#### Jeannine Souki, Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

## BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

March 12, 2024, 1:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

#### SUPPORT FOR: HB 1956 HD1 – RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To: Chair DeCoite Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee

Re: Testimony providing support for HB 1956 HD1

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit support for HB 1956 HD1, which would establish a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's economic competitiveness and business climate.

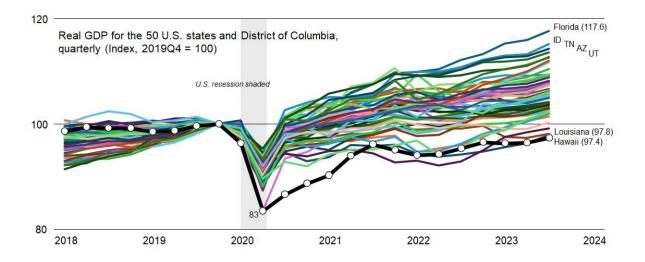
Hawaiian Telcom supports this initiative. Our understanding is that the task force will endeavor to take a deeper dive into unraveling and mitigating regulatory and tax burdens facing Hawai'i businesses and establishing incentives for businesses in our state to thrive.

Hawaiian Telcom has been instrumental in keeping communities and businesses connected to the world since our company was chartered by King David Kalākaua in 1883, from enabling the first direct link to the continental United States via undersea telegraph cable to installing Hawai'i's first fiber-optic cable at Camp Smith, from developing SEA-US, the most technologically advanced trans-Pacific fiber cable, to providing residents new entertainment choice with our Fioptics+ service. While the products, services, and technology have changed dramatically over time. Hawaiian Telcom has been at the forefront of innovation.

Hawaiian Telcom has invested more than \$1 billion over the last ten years to expand and support its fiber optic network and serve its customers. In 2023, Hawaiian Telcom expanded its fiber-optics network to add 65,000 new locations, including the completion of our fiber expansion on Lāna'i and more than 95% of the island of Moloka'i as well as parts of Pahoa and Kailua Kona on Hawai'i Island, Wailuku, Kihei, and Makawao on Maui, and Līhu'e and Kilauea on Kaua'i. Our company is on track to build an additional 60,000 locations across the state in 2024.

Hawaiian Telcom feels a great sense of responsibility to Hawaii, our home. We are committed to extending our fiber broadband network to all homes and businesses in the state within the next four years. But we continuously face stiff winds with the high level of state regulatory requirements, high taxes and no incentives to offset the cost of investing in capital infrastructure.

Recently, the U.S. Commerce Department published 2023 year-end GDP estimates for all 50 U.S. States and the District of Columbia, which shows that Hawai'i is lagging below the national average.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (https://www.bea.gov/data/qdp/qdp-state)

Hawaiian Telcom supports efforts to reset the business climate, streamline burdensome regulatory requirements, and establish incentives that draw investors and businesses to diversify and grow our GDP so that we can reestablish our economic competitiveness. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and offer support for HB 1956 HD1.

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Working together for Kapolei

T.A'

Tuesday March 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Conference Rm. 415 and via Videoconference

#### RE: HB 1956 HD1 Relating to Economic Development

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee:

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region which includes Waipahu to Ka'ena Point. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive. We are a member-driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of HB 1956 HD1. This bill establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including mitigating regulatory and tax burdens. It also requires a report to the legislature.

In the wake of the pandemic, the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce launched its own business revitalization task force that is transitioning to a member-driven economic council focused on West O'ahu economic priorities. Kapolei leads the state in economic growth and navigating and directing Hawai'i's very weighted business climate is one of our top concerns.

We have the most restrictive land use regulations in the nation.

Our small businesses struggle often with very small margins to break a profit due in part to some of the very tax heavy and government regulated fee structures in our state. In some cases, businesses are relocating to other states.

We need to work together to identify the barriers of doing business in Hawai'i and find ways to stimulate and support growth, keeping more jobs and laying the needed improved foundation for our future workforce and entrepreneurs.

future workforce and entrepreneurs.		

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk Executive Director



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813 P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiifood.com

#### **Executive Officers**

Gary Okimoto, Safeway Hawaii, Chair
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, Vice Chair
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., Secretary/Treas.
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, Executive Director
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, Advisor
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, Advisor
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, Advisor
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Advisor
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, Immediate Past Chair

TO: Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 12, 2024

TIME: 1pm

PLACE: Room 229

RE: HB1956 HD1 Relating to Economic Development

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure. As this measure notes, Hawaii's high tax rate and challenging regulatory burden has stifled new business formation in our state. These factors have also made it more challenging for existing businesses to continue operations locally.

For 30 years HFIA has proudly produced the Made in Hawaii Festival. Our local small businesses have proven that they have tremendous potential when given the opportunity to thrive. We believe our State should be fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic diversification.

Establishing a Businesses Revitalization Task Force is an opportunity for the State to find the best ways to support our local businesses and remove unnecessary challenges. This is an investment in local businesses, and the economic future of our State. We encourage the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



#### TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII MARCH 12, 2024

Re: HB 1956 HD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Good afternoon, Chair DeCoite, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We strongly support HB 1956 HD1. This measure establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens; requires a report to the legislature; and is effective 7/1/3000.

We are often asked why various mainland stores do not come to Hawaii or why are there not more locally owned stores around? There are assorted reasons why, however, **Hawaii has maintained a reputation of having a lot of government red tape and excessive costs to do business in the state.** There are many opportunities to be had if there are changes made.

In April of 2023 <u>Wallet Hub</u> (<u>https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-to-start-a-business/2281</u>) named the best places to start a business. Compared the relative startup opportunities that exist in 100 U.S. cities. Honolulu ranked 71<sup>st</sup> out of 100.

Hawaii needs a more favorable business climate so that we can attract new businesses, stimulate entrepreneurship, encourage innovation, and create jobs, and ultimately drive economic growth in our state. We feel that this type of diverse task force can assess the current state of the business and develop a clear strategic direction to navigate solutions to challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and achieve long-term goals.

A well-rounded Task Force that includes a balance of government and businesses can identify potential risks and challenges businesses are facing, address them with workable solutions in an effort to minimize negative impacts on operations and economic opportunities. Businesses already are bogged down with a multitude of regulations with some being outdated, compliance costs, and high tax rates to name a few. By addressing weaknesses in the business environment, this task force can help improve Hawaii's overall competitiveness of businesses.

We want to encourage and entice more new businesses to come to Hawaii and be successful.

We ask you to please pass this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

<u>HB-1956-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:34:51 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
MELYNDA DANT	Testifying for Fair Wind Cruises	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

1654 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-2097 Telephone: (808) 941.0556 Fax: (808) 945.0019 Web site: www.hcul.org Email: info@hcul.org

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM

Conference Room 229

#### Testimony in Support of HB 1956, Relating to Economic Development

To: The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Members of the Committee

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League, the local trade association for 47 Hawaii credit unions, representing over 864,000 credit union members across the state.

HCUL offers the following testimony in support of HB 1956, Relating to Economic Development. This bill would establish a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens.

This bill puts forth an important task force to assist businesses in Hawaii during a very critical time in our economy. Many Hawaii businesses, such as local credit unions, struggle under heavy regulatory burdens. Identifying ways to assist, streamline, and alleviate these issues for our local businesses would help strengthen our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue.



TO: Chair Lynn DeCoite; Vice Chair Glenn Wakai; and Committee

FROM: Adrian Hong, President of Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

RE: HB 1956 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support to HB 1956. My name is Adrian Hong and I am the president of Island Plastic Bags Inc. (IPB), a second-generation, family business in Halawa Valley that manufactures plastic trash liners and sells compostable cutlery, paper bags, and Colgate-Palmolive products. IPB supports this bill as action is desperately needed to improve the business climate in Hawaii.

Overregulation, taxes, and delays in permitting and licensing severely hamper business formation and growth in Hawaii. Hawaii's economy could be a more diverse and dynamic place if we did not put so many restrictions on professions and businesses. A less burdened economy could create more opportunities for our children to remain here in Hawaii and have successful and rewarding careers. A task force addressing these issues is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1956. Should you have any questions or comments about my testimony you can contact me by email at <a href="mailto:ahong@islandplasticbags.com">ahong@islandplasticbags.com</a> or by phone at 808-484-4046.

Sincerely,

Adrian K. Hong, CPA

President

Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

www.islandplasticbags.com

Email: ahong@islandplasticbags.com|Phone: 808-484-4046 |Fax: 808-488-8505



HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229 Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 1:00 PM

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

#### SUPPORT HB1956 HD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Maui Chamber of Commerce SUPPORTS HB1956 HD1.

The Chamber notes that Hawaii is consistently ranked in the bottom on CNBC's Top States for Business list due to the cost of doing business, infrastructure, business friendliness, access to capital, cost of living, and more. At a time when a major focus has been on economic development and diversification, improving our business friendliness in relation to taxes and regulations is important to help sustain and grow our local businesses and attract new industries.

We strongly support the creation of this task force and the various industry members included. We would like to see more neighbor island representation in the task force members specified in the bill language to ensure our unique business needs are also discussed.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT HB1956 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Jumpap

President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

#### HB-1956-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:43:44 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Jones	Testifying for Gyotaku Japanese Restaurants	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 12, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Room 229

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

#### **RE:** Testimony in Support of the Economic Revitalization Task Force

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee	ee,
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I am a local business owner/manager/employer at [\_\_\_\_\_] and I strongly support HB1956 relating to economic development.

I appreciate the opportunity to support this bill and believe this task force is critical to support the future economic resilience and growth of our local business community. This assertion is well founded and notably based on the following:

#### Hawaii consistently ranks as one of the worst states to do business.

- <u>1st most restrictive land use regulations in the nation</u>, University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization
- 5th year in a row more people moved out of Hawaii than moved into the state, 2020 U.S. Census
- 43rd Ranking, State Business Tax Climate Index, U.S. Tax Foundation
- 47th Ranking, Top states for business, CNBC

• 48th Ranking, Most policy measures and costs impacting entrepreneurship & small business growth, SBE Council

High tax burdens and overregulation at every level of government is hindering business growth and preventing new businesses and entrepreneurs from investing in Hawaii. This task force is a critical method for state government leaders and the business community to come together to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration,

**Thomas Jones** 

Gyotaku Restaurants



March 12, 2024 1:00 p.m. Room 229

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of the Economic Revitalization Task Force – HB1956

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of FCH Enterprises, Inc. and our best-known brand name, Zippy's Restaurants, I strongly support HB1956 relating to economic development.

I appreciate the opportunity to support this bill and believe this task force is critical to support the future economic resilience and growth of our local business community. This assertion is well founded and notably based on the following:

Hawaii consistently ranks as one of the worst states to do business.

- 1st most restrictive land use regulations in the nation, University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization
- 5th year in a row more people moved out of Hawaii than moved into the state, 2020 U.S. Census
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High tax burdens and overregulation at every level of government is hindering business growth and preventing new businesses and entrepreneurs from investing in Hawaii. This task force is a critical method for state government leaders and the business community to come together to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jakon Higa

Chief Executive Officer FCH Enterprises, Inc.



### HB-1956-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:00:42 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Alan S. Hayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

#### Comments:

I am in strong support of the intent of HB1956. Thank you!