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BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO DIRECTOR KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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## STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA

235 S. BERETANIA STREET HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813-2437

## Statement of BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO

Director, Department of Human Resources Development

## Before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 309

## In consideration of HB 2254, RELATING TO EMPLOYEES

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and the members of the committees:

The purpose of HB 2254 is to expand the use of employee exchanges and deployments to include private sector employers, including nonprofit and for-profit organizations. The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) offers the following comments:

- 1. Through collective bargaining, government employees have the opportunity for a sabbatical or educational leave of absence that may include working at a private organization to gain experience and knowledge to return and further improve public service.
- 2. Establishing an exchange of services with private organizations may present conflicts of interest or other ethics concerns covered under Chapter 84, HRS; however, we defer to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission on those matters.

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