



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, March 28, 2024
TIME: 3:02PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SR 2
**ENDORISING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN AS AN OBSERVER IN THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE,
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION, AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION;
SUPPORTING THE FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE US-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON
21ST-CENTURY TRADE, A SPEEDY CONCLUSION TO THE NEGOTIATION, AND
ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO
COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL TRADE
AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN; AND SUPPORTING THE STATE OF HAWAII'S
THIRTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER-STATE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN
AND COMMEMORATING THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN
RELATIONS ACT.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports **SR 2** which urges the endorsement of the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization; supports the further progress on the US-Taiwan initiative on 21st-Century Trade, a speedy conclusion to this negotiation, and encouraging the United States Trade Representative to commence negotiations to enter into a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan; and

supporting the State of Hawai'i's thirty-first anniversary of sister-state relations with Taiwan and commemorating the forty-fifth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

DBEDT supports this resolution by believing closer economic ties with Taiwan, Hawai'i can tap into numerous benefits that can stimulate economic growth and job creation. Hawai'i's long-standing sister-state relationships with Taiwan has brought about significant cultural, educational, and economic exchanges, benefiting both Hawai'i and Taiwan. We encourage the continued strengthening of this special connection, which has fostered understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the two regions.

Through the State of Hawai'i Office in Taipei, DBEDT/BDSO has been working with Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Honolulu to promote economic development and enhance business opportunities. Taiwan will also be participating in the 13th Festival of the Pacific Arts & Culture to be held in Honolulu from June 6-16, 2024. DBEDT will continue to work closely with Taiwan to not only enhance diplomatic relations but also promote international cooperation for the mutual benefit to Hawai'i and Taiwan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.