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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 10, 2026  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 577, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, LEO WILLIAMS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Leo Williams to the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

Mr. Williams brings over 40 years of experience in Hawaii's barbering and cosmetology industry, including more than 35 years as Vice President, School Principal, and Director of Education at Honolulu Barber School, Ltd. dba Hawaii Institute of Hair Design, where he has provided leadership to staff, faculty, and students and is widely respected by graduates and industry professionals. He has extensive experience teaching Hawaii State Barber Laws and safe, sanitary, and lawful shop and salon operations, and has actively participated in legislative processes affecting barbers, cosmetologists, barbershops, and salons.

Mr. Williams has attended many Board meetings, is familiar with Board proceedings, and has previously assisted the Board by creating and presenting a crossover training curriculum to facilitate transfer of educational credits between barber and cosmetology programs. He maintains ongoing professional development, holds current barber, beauty operator, and instructor licenses, and contributes to the community through regular volunteer haircut services at youth programs, hospitals, and charity events.

Given his proven industry expertise, regulatory knowledge, educational leadership, and longstanding commitment to consumer protection and public service, the Department believes Mr. Williams will be an asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.