



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT DIVISION

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

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Statement of
DENNIS T. LING
Administrator

Business Development and Support Division
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Tuesday, April 6, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM610

**Submitting in consideration of confirmation to the
Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, KAIANA NEIZMAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

Chair Decoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee. The Business Development and Support Division (BDSD) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports **GM610** which submits for consideration and confirmation Mr. Kaiana Neizman to serve on the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Advisory Council.

The CBED Program is committed to fostering sustainable community-driven initiatives and strengthening local economic opportunities aligned with Hawai'i's values. The Advisory Council plays a central role in reviewing financing requests and guiding program decisions that advance community-based economic development statewide.

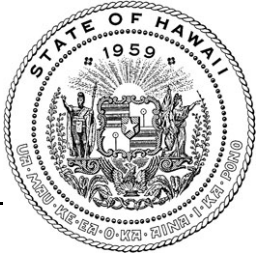
Mr. Neizman brings extensive experience in financial management, community engagement, and small business support. His professional background, which includes leadership roles in both the financial sector and local community organizations, equips him with a broad understanding of the economic challenges facing Hawai'i's business

community. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to building local capacity and supporting economic self-sufficiency, particularly through his previous service as the Director of the Small Business Development Center, Hilo.

His combination of financial expertise, understanding of community-based economic development, and long-standing dedication to Hawai'i island communities make him well suited for this role. Mr. Neizman's insight will contribute meaningfully to the CBED Advisory Council's work in advancing community-based economic initiatives statewide.

BDSB respectfully requests your favorable consideration and confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Statement of
James Kunane Tokioka
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM610
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Community-Based
Economic Development Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAIANA
NEIZMAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

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

I **support** GM610 which submits for consideration and confirmation Mr. Kaiana Neizman to serve on the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Advisory Council.

The mission of the CBED Program is to develop viable, sustainable ventures, and invest in community-based development projects that serve local needs and are compatible with the vision, character, and cultural values of their communities. The CBED Advisory Council reviews financing requests and makes recommendations on the awarding of loans and grants, subject to the final approval of the DBEDT Director.

With an extensive financial management background spanning over three decades in leading institutions such as Norwest Financial, Bank of America, First American Financial, and Columbia Bank, coupled with his experience providing fiscal oversight as a board member for several local community organizations, Mr. Neizman brings a wealth of expertise that will greatly benefits CBED Program and its Advisory.

Mr. Neizman's unwavering commitment to building capacity and fostering economic self-sufficiency within Hawai'i Island communities and experience as the former Director of the Hilo Small Business Development Center (SBDC), align seamlessly with CBED's mission and vision. His proven ability to support small businesses and strengthen local

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economies makes him an invaluable addition to CBED's diverse Advisory Council of community leaders.

I am honored to submit this testimony in support of Kaiana Neizman's nomination to the CBED Advisory Council and humbly ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.