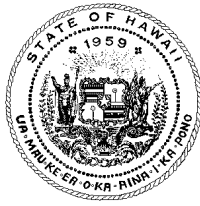


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 747
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
SETH COLBY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Monday, April 27, 2026; 12:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Via Video Conference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, for a term ending December 7, 2026. Dr. Colby has worked in a variety of positions of increasing duties and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, as the Executive Director of the Bernard L. Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism, Consultant with World Bank, Executive Director of the Leadership Academy for Development at John Hopkins University; Tax Planning and Research Officer of the Hawai'i Department of Taxation; and the Chief State Economist and Administrator of the Research and Economic Analysis Division with the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, prior to assuming his current role as the Director of Finance.

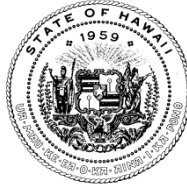
Dr. Colby's vast experience and knowledge, including his previous experience serving in the positions and roles listed above, makes him the ideal candidate to lead the Department of Budget and Finance. He clearly possesses in-depth knowledge, well-honed decision-making skills, and interpersonal skills required of the position.

Governor's Message No. 747
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 27, 2026
Page 2

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this superbly qualified nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message No.747 and the confirmation of Dr. Colby.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 27, 2026
12:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 211

G.M. 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) offers its support for the nomination of Seth Colby to serve as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

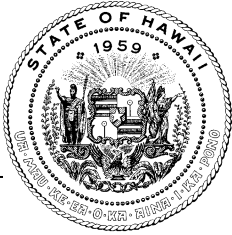
Mr. Colby's nomination comes at a critical time when strong fiscal leadership, strategic budgeting, and sound financial management are essential to advancing statewide priorities. The Department of Budget and Finance plays a central role in ensuring that public resources are allocated efficiently, transparently, and in alignment with the State's long-term goals.

HDOT has consistently relied on close coordination with the Department of Budget and Finance to deliver critical infrastructure projects, manage federal and state funding streams, and maintain fiscal accountability across our transportation systems. Leadership in this role requires not only technical expertise, but also the ability to collaborate across departments and navigate complex funding environments.

We are confident that Mr. Colby possesses the experience, leadership, and commitment necessary to effectively guide the Department and support the State's financial health. His ability to work collaboratively with agencies like HDOT will be essential in delivering projects that serve the people of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, HDOT respectfully urges the Committee to confirm the nomination of Seth Colby as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, April 27, 2026,
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

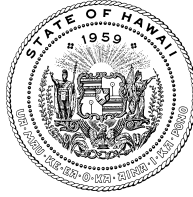
In Support of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwake and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) strongly supports the appointment of Seth Colby to be Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. Mr. Colby is particularly well prepared to serve in this role due to his experience as Acting Director of Finance and serving as the State's principal economic advisor as well as his thorough knowledge and experience with State budget and financial plans.

His experience with State finance policy can be seen through 1) his execution and development of Hawai'i's \$20 billion State budget and six-year financial plan; 2) his direction of the largest General Obligation bond sale in state history at \$1.5 billion; 3) his designing of a \$7 billion tax reduction bill for working-class households, among others. Additionally, his fiscal responsibility and expertise is evident through his experience that spans the management of revenue impact estimates for 350+ bills proposed annually by the Hawai'i Legislature, performing market analyses, and creating statistical tools. During his time at Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Colby secured \$1.6 million in funding, and was responsible for generating profits exceeding \$2 million and transacting over \$25 billion while at Citigroup.

I have the highest confidence that Mr. Colby will use taxpayer dollars wisely and manage the federal budget effectively. I urge the committee to confirm his appointment.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 747

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 747, the appointment of **Seth Colby** as the Director for the Department of Budget and Finance for a term to expire on December 07, 2026.

Dr. Colby brings a rare combination of economic expertise, public-sector leadership, and a global perspective to this role. He has served in key positions across Hawai'i State government, including as Acting Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Chief State Economist, and Tax Planning and Research Officer. Through these roles, he has demonstrated a deep understanding of the State's fiscal structure, revenue systems, and economic landscape.

In addition to his state experience, Dr. Colby has worked internationally on economic development, policy design, and research, collaborating with organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. His background in data analysis, fiscal policy, and program development equips him to navigate complex budgetary challenges and support informed, evidence-based decision-making.

At a time when Hawai'i faces fiscal uncertainty and evolving economic conditions, Dr. Colby's expertise, leadership, and strategic approach will be critical to maintaining the State's financial stability and advancing sound fiscal policy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



**HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

547 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 594-0300 Fax: (808) 587-0299
Web site: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

STERLING HIGA
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of
CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO
Executive Director
Hawai'i Community Development Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration, of
GM 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of
the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee,
SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) respectfully **supports GM747**, for consideration and confirmation of Mr. Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

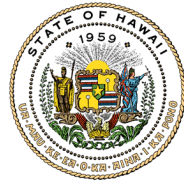
At a time when the State is advancing critical initiatives, including economic development, infrastructure investment, and community-based planning, it is essential to have individuals in leadership positions who possess both technical expertise and sound judgment. Seth's background reflects these qualities and a clear understanding of Hawai'i's unique needs and opportunities.

We believe his appointment will help strengthen institutional capacity, support effective decision-making, and contribute to positive outcomes for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
12:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, **SETH COLBY**, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Seth Colby as the Director for the Department of Budget and Finance for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports the nomination of Seth Colby as the Director for the Department of Budget and Finance. Should there be call for the ideal resume for the position, Seth Colby's resume would answer that call. He brings with him experience in budgeting and public finance, economic forecasting, empirical analysis, public sector leadership, tax and innovation policy, policy, cost/benefit analysis and global awareness.

In the months that I have worked with Dr. Colby, he has demonstrated professionalism and a straightforward approach to the state budget, which enhances his impressive resume and affirms he is a perfect fit to serve as the Director of Budget and Finance for the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully requesting your confirmation of Seth Colby and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

BRIAN K. FURUTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
**GM747 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee,
SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the members of the committee:

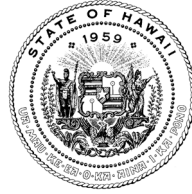
The Department of Human Resources Development (HRD) supports the nomination and confirmation of Dr. Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby has demonstrated exceptional leadership as the Acting Director of Finance, where he has overseen development of the State's \$20 billion budget and six-year- financial plan and coordinated fiscal strategy across executive departments. He also successfully directed the largest General Obligation bond sale in state history at \$1.5 billion, strengthening the State's fiscal position.

Dr. Colby's prior service as Chief State Economist reflects his strong analytical background and ability to communicate economic trends and challenges clearly to policymakers and the public. His earlier leadership in the Department of Taxation, where he strengthened revenue analysis and contributed to over \$500 million in additional revenue, further demonstrates his effectiveness in improving organizational performance.

With his expertise in public finance, policy analysis, and economic forecasting, Dr. Colby brings the skill, judgment, and experience necessary to guide the State's fiscal operations during a period of continued uncertainty.

For these reasons, I offer my strong endorsement of Dr. Colby's confirmation. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of his nomination and appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM747.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 1-844-808-DCCA (3222)
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

KEITH REGAN
ACTING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE
KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**Testimony of
DEAN I HAZAMA
Deputy Director for the
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 747, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SETH COLBY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

My name is Dean Hazama, and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I support the confirmation of Seth Colby to the position of Director of Budget and Finance.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Colby while he was at DoTAX and his short time at Budget and Finance. I have been impressed by his steady leadership, clear communication, and disciplined data-driven approach to decision-making. He demonstrates professionalism, integrity, and a clear commitment to prudent stewardship of public resources.

Dr. Colby currently serves as Acting Director of Finance, where he oversees development and execution of the State's multibillion-dollar budget and six-year

financial plan, coordinates fiscal strategy across executive departments, and manages major financing activities, including a record General Obligation bond issuance. His prior service as Chief State Economist and as Tax Planning and Research Officer has given him deep expertise in Hawai'i's economy, tax system, and long-term fiscal outlook.

His background includes extensive experience in economic policy and public finance at the state and international levels, as well as a Ph.D. in Political Economy. This combination of technical competence, leadership experience, and practical judgment makes him well-qualified to serve as Director of Budget and Finance.

Based on my professional interactions with him, I am confident that Dr. Colby will continue to serve the State of Hawai'i with diligence, transparency, and sound fiscal management. I respectfully urge the committee to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SETH S. COLBY, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 747

Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 p.m.
Room 211 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SETH S. COLBY, Ph.D., FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

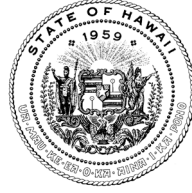
I strongly support the appointment of Dr. Seth S. Colby to the position of director of the Department of Budget and Finance. In my role as Deputy Director of Finance, I have the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Colby every day.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to taking action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Dr. Colby is an integral part of a team dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Dr. Colby has been serving as the director since December 2025. Prior to his current role, Dr. Colby served as Chief State Economist and Administrator of the Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) in the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. He also served as the Tax Planning and Research Officer in the Department of Taxation. His extensive background will greatly benefit the department and the State. Therefore, I strongly support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

KEITH REGAN
ACTING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE
KIA'ĀINA

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 1-844-808-DCCA (3222)
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 211, and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 747, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SETH COLBY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

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 Seth Colby to serve as the Director of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby brings exceptional experience in budgeting, public finance, economic forecasting, policy analysis, and public sector leadership. He currently serves as Acting Director of Finance, where he develops and executes Hawai'i's \$20 billion state budget and six-year financial plan, coordinates fiscal strategy across executive departments, and provides fiscal guidance on the State's financial condition.

His record reflects both technical expertise and sound executive judgment. In his current role, he directed the largest General Obligation bond sale in state history at \$1.5 billion, manages a department encompassing more than 350 positions across attached

agencies, and advises the Governor, Legislature, and executive departments on budget priorities, fiscal constraints, and policy tradeoffs.

Dr. Colby also brings a strong foundation in economic analysis and revenue policy. As Chief State Economist and READ Administrator at the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, he served as the State's principal economic advisor and oversaw a division of 34 researchers with responsibility for major economic publications and analytical tools.

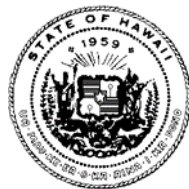
Before that, as Tax Planning and Research Officer at the Department of Taxation, he managed economists and statisticians, oversaw revenue impact estimates for hundreds of legislative measures each year, and helped strengthen the State's compliance and research capabilities. Those roles demonstrate a deep understanding of Hawai'i's fiscal structure, economic conditions, and long-term policy challenges.

Dr. Colby holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University and has extensive experience in both domestic and international economic policy work. His background, professionalism, and commitment to evidence-based decision-making make him well qualified to lead the Department of Budget and Finance at this important time for our State.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully supports the confirmation of Seth Colby as Director of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

April 24 , 2026

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 747 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Hearing: Monday, April 27, 2026, 12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS), strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

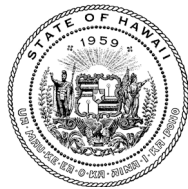
Dr. Colby brings a unique combination of academic, historical, and hands-on leadership in public finance. Prior to Acting Director of Finance, Dr. Colby served as Chief State Economist and Administrator of the Research and Economic Analysis Division, where he led a team of economists and analysts producing critical data and forecasts that inform statewide decision-making. His earlier tenure at the Department of Taxation highlighted his ability to solve complex economic analysis into policy, including the design of major tax reform language and the strengthening our revenue systems.

Dr. Colby's career also includes international experience with institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, as well as leadership roles in academic and policy organizations. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University and has extensive experience managing multidisciplinary teams, conducting high-level economic research, and advising senior government leaders. His approach to public service includes clear understanding that fiscal policy must ultimately serve people. His ability to balance analytical precision with a commitment to community outcomes makes him especially well-suited to lead Hawai'i's financial strategy during a time of both challenge and opportunity.

I am confident that Dr. Colby will continue to demonstrate integrity, transparency, and excellence in this role. I strongly support his appointment and believe he will be an outstanding Director of Budget and Finance for the State of Hawai'i.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Monday, April 27, 2026
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Dr. Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

I have worked closely with Dr. Colby during his time at DOTAX and believe he is uniquely qualified to serve as Budget and Finance Director. As Administrator of the Department of Taxation's (DOTAX) Tax Research and Planning Office, Dr. Colby led a team of economists and support staff in delivering timely, high-quality analysis to all levels of government. His work provided data and insights that supported informed decision-making across both the public and private sectors. He was a steady, thoughtful presence at DOTAX and provided invaluable support to his colleagues and the department as a whole.

In addition to his contributions at DOTAX, as Hawaii's Chief State Economist, he led the State's primary economic research division, managed a \$6.6 million budget, and provided clear, data-driven analysis on the State's most pressing fiscal and economic challenges. His international economic experience and strong management record

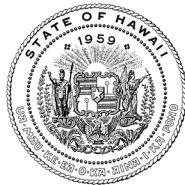
demonstrate the expertise, judgment, and public-service commitment needed to guide Hawaii's fiscal strategy.

It is for these reasons that, on behalf of the Hawai'i Department of Taxation, I support Dr. Seth Colby's confirmation as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 747.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

April 27, 2026

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. 747, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

In his service as Hawai'i's Acting Director of Finance, Dr. Colby has helped guide the State's financial operations with steady judgment and a clear focus on long-term fiscal stability. He oversees the development and execution of Hawai'i's multibillion-dollar budget and six-year financial plan, and he contributed to strengthening the State's financial position by helping complete the largest General Obligation bond sale in Hawai'i's history. His efforts to improve coordination across the department and its attached agencies demonstrate his belief that effective financial management relies on both strong analysis and strong institutional systems.

Dr. Colby brings extensive experience in economic analysis, public finance, and fiscal policy, supported by years of work on Hawai'i's most complex budget issues. His background as the State's Chief Economist and his leadership of multidisciplinary research teams have given him a nuanced understanding of the economic forces that shape the State's fiscal outlook. He regularly translates complex trends into clear, actionable guidance for policymakers.

His work in national and international settings further broadens his perspective. Through positions with the Inter-American Development Bank Group, the World Bank, and Johns Hopkins University, he contributed to projects focused on private-sector development, economic research, and policy design in more than 15 countries. This background allows him to situate Hawai'i's fiscal decisions within broader economic trends and to draw on proven approaches from other jurisdictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 747.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

PHILLIP L. MALLORY
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GM 747

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of GM747** to confirm Dr. Seth Colby as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby brings a rare and highly relevant combination of experience that aligns directly with the responsibilities of this position. He is currently serving as Acting Director of Finance, where he is already responsible for developing and executing Hawaii's approximately \$20 billion state budget and six-year financial plan. In this role, he has demonstrated the ability to coordinate fiscal strategy across all executive departments and provide clear, data-driven guidance to both the Governor and the Legislature on complex fiscal matters.

Additionally, Dr. Colby has demonstrated strong execution and financial leadership, including directing the State's largest general obligation bond issuance and managing core fiscal functions across departments and agencies. His prior service as Chief State Economist and leadership at the Department of Taxation further reflects deep expertise in economic forecasting, revenue analysis, and legislative support. Dr. Colby brings the experience, judgment, and leadership necessary to ensure sound fiscal management and long-term financial stability and continuity at a critical time for the State.

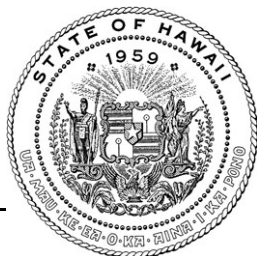
Furthermore, Dr. Colby's private experience with institutions such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and in the financial sector provides him with a

broader perspective on capital markets, economic development, and strategic investment. This perspective is particularly valuable as Hawai'i navigates economic uncertainty, federal funding variability, and the need for long-term infrastructure and resilience investments.

Dr. Colby has also demonstrated a leadership style grounded in collaboration, transparency, and accountability. The Department of Budget and Finance sits at the center of coordination between the executive branch and the Legislature. His ability to communicate clearly, provide objective analysis, and engage constructively with stakeholders will be essential to ensuring sound fiscal governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Colby. I feel very confident in saying the State of Hawaii and its people would be lucky to have him on our team as B&F's leader.

MG Stephen F. Logan, Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
GM 747
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee,
SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

I **strongly support** the appointment of Dr. Seth Colby to serve as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Seth is an accomplished economist with deep expertise in budgeting, public finance, economic forecasting and policy analysis. His extensive leadership experience includes work in public sector management, tax and innovation policy, and economic research.

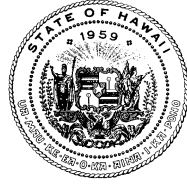
Since December 2025, Seth has been serving as Acting Director of Finance for the State of Hawai'i, where he develops and executes the state budget and financial plan, coordinating fiscal strategy across all executive departments. His leadership extends across multiple critical state entities, including serving as a board member of the Employees' Retirement System and the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, where he plays a central role in overseeing pension systems and statewide affordable housing financing efforts.

Seth's prior service as Chief State Economist and Administrator of DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division further highlights his strong capacity for data-driven policy leadership. He oversaw a team of researchers and produced publications analyzing Hawai'i's economy, labor market, tourism trends and emerging industries. In this role, he communicated complex issues such as housing affordability and global competitiveness with clarity and accessibility.

Earlier in his career, Seth demonstrated analytical and organizational leadership within the Department of Taxation, where he managed economists and statisticians, produced high-impact revenue analysis and generated estimates for more legislative bills.

Seth's broad international experience — ranging from the Inter-American Development Bank Group to global programs at Johns Hopkins University — further underscores his strengths in economic development, strategic planning and cross-sector collaboration. Given his extensive experience, proven leadership in statewide fiscal management and deep commitment to public service, I am confident that Seth is qualified to serve as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Dr. Seth Colby's nomination. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my strong support.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKOLE

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 27, 2026

Room Number: 211

- 1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Seth
- 2 Colby, PhD, for Director of Finance for the State of Hawaii.

- 3 Dr. Colby's professional experience describes an accomplished academic with national and
- 4 international expertise, private and public sector leadership, and volunteerism with a focus on the
- 5 less fortunate.

- 6 As national and international markets grapple with unpredictable forces, and as state and local
- 7 economies adjust to many disruptive new technologies, erratic policies, and unprecedented
- 8 deviations from long-standing norms of political-economy, Dr. Colby's management in state-
- 9 level economic strategy and fiscal management, his disciplined approach to policy decisions
- 10 through data-driven analysis, and a background in bridging global development experience with
- 11 local Hawai'i economic planning, will provide thoughtful leadership to fiscal policy and prudent
- 12 budget management.

- 13 DOH reiterates support for this nominee for Director of Finance.

- 14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH A. REGAN
ACTING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SETH S. COLBY, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

RE: Nomination as Director of Finance
Governor's Message No. 747

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering my nomination as Director of Finance. It is a great honor to be nominated by Governor Green to serve the people of Hawaii'i.

This Director of Finance acts as the principal custodian of the state's financial resources—a role I take very seriously.

Public money is sacred. Private commercial transactions are conducted voluntarily, meaning that both parties freely agree to participate in the exchange. Public money is different. Residents do not choose to contribute to the common purse; they are required to by law. That obligation demands that we manage their money with the highest level of care and accountability. My belief that public money is sacred guides everything I do in this role.

I would like to take a few minutes to explain: 1) why I am qualified for this position, 2) the principles by which I do this job, and 3) issues I intend to address during my tenure.

Qualifications and Background

I have served the State of Hawaii'i for nearly ten years, developing knowledge products so decision-makers like yourselves can make more informed decisions. At the Department of Taxation, I led a team that supported the Council on Revenues and generated accurate revenue estimates for proposed legislation. I also served as Chief State Economist at the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, overseeing the production of economic research and statistics. Through these positions, I developed a deep knowledge of the state's revenue system and economy.

Prior to coming to Hawaii'i, I worked in finance and development banking, designing and evaluating economic development programs for island economies. My doctoral

dissertation examined the circumstances under which governments can use public investment to catalyze private sector growth — a question that remains directly relevant to my work today.

I come to this position with a solid understanding of the state's revenue system, its economy, the relationship between budgetary decisions and economic outcomes, and the fundamentals of public finance.

Guiding Principles

Beyond credentials, I want to share the principles that guide my work.

The first principle is what I mentioned at the outset: **public money is sacred**. I repeat this often — to the Budget and Finance (B&F) staff, to partner agencies, and to anyone else who will listen. It is not a slogan. It is a reminder that every dollar we manage was collected under the authority of law, and we owe the public nothing less than our full accountability in how we spend it.

The second principle is that **information helps**. Budgeting involves hard trade-offs. Funding one priority means that money is not available for another. Those trade-offs are easier to evaluate honestly when we have the data to do so. I have spent most of my career providing rigorous analysis to decision-makers, and, if confirmed, I intend to continue that work as Director. Under my leadership, B&F would be a source of the data and metrics that allow us — and this Legislature — to evaluate the true impact of public investments.

The third principle is that **budget health is downstream of economic health**. The state's revenue system sits atop the state's economy. A single percentage point of general fund growth is equivalent to roughly \$100 million in additional revenue, and that impact compounds over time. As we wade into the details of budgetary line items, we must never lose sight of the larger picture: a strong economy is the most important long-term driver of our fiscal health.

Goals and Vision

I'll close by highlighting three operational aspects I seek to strengthen at the department.

First, **maintaining and strengthening the state's credit worthiness**. B&F's primary purpose is managing the state's fiscal resources in the most financially prudent manner. As Acting Director, the department recently executed the largest bond sale in state history — nearly \$2 billion. In that process, we managed to get the GO bond rating put on a positive outlook and the highway bond upgraded to a AAA rating. In plain English: rating agencies and investors have expressed more confidence in Hawai'i's story and its ability

to meet its financial obligations. As a result, people are willing to lend us money at lower rates, translating into taxpayer savings. If confirmed, I will continue to leverage my unique background in economics, taxation, and finance to negotiate for cost-effective government services on behalf of our residents.

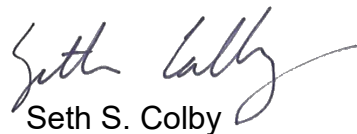
Second, **modernizing our budgetary processes**. During my tenure as Acting Director, B&F launched a new IT project to build an automated budget management system that will replace a manually driven process that consists of Excel spreadsheets and email chains. Centralizing budgetary information in an integrated platform will improve processing speed, reduce error, and increase transparency. We are also supporting the statewide Enterprise Financial System and other technology initiatives that will strengthen how state government operates at every level. Technology, used strategically, is one of the most powerful tools we have to improve productivity across state government.

Third, **building organizational capacity**. B&F operates with a lean structure. Elevated vacancy rates — including at the senior manager level — have created unacceptable levels of operational risk. We recently hired a Human Resources Officer to anchor a broader effort to recruit, develop, and retain the talent this department needs. The next phase is filling the senior manager positions, and then we will work down the chain of command. I am committed to leaving this organization stronger than I found it.

Should I be confirmed, I will work with this Committee and the full Legislature to be responsible stewards of the public's resources and to build a more prosperous future for the people of Hawai'i.

I ask for your support of my confirmation. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Mahalo,



Seth S. Colby
Director of Finance

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH A. REGAN
ACTING LT. GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Monday, April 27, 2026, 12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
in consideration of
GM No. 747
Confirmation of Director, Department of Budget and Finance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Governor's Message 747, for Gubernatorial Nominee Seth Colby, Ph.D, as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby brings an impressive background in economic analysis, tax policy, and public finance that makes him highly qualified for this role. Previous to being appointed Director of Finance, Dr. Colby served as the Chief State Economist for the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, where he led the department's Research and Economic Analysis Division, as well as Tax Research and Planning Officer within the Hawaii Department of Taxation, where he analyzed the state's revenue system, evaluated fiscal impacts of proposed legislation, and contributed to macroeconomic forecasting.

With over eight years of Hawaii state government experience and well over a decade of experience working on economic development and fiscal management, Dr. Colby is uniquely positioned to serve as the Director of Finance. His academic credentials, including a Ph.D. in Development Economics and International Development from John Hopkins University, further reinforce his expertise in managing complex economic and fiscal challenges.

At a time when Hawaii faces evolving economic conditions, Dr. Colby's expertise in tax policy, economic research and fiscal management will be invaluable to guide the Department of Budget and Finance in advancing the state's long-term financial stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and offer comments for Governor's Message 747.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH A. REGAN
ACTING LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

KRISTEN ROSS SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
KRISTEN ROSS SAKAMOTO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. 747, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Monday, April 27, 2026
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

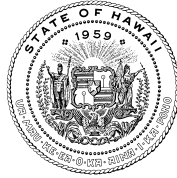
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Seth Colby as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby brings a strong background in government leadership, economics, and public policy, and a solid understanding of the State's economy and financial condition. During the last several months, Dr. Colby has served as Acting Director of Finance, where he has led the Department of Budget and Finance in developing and executing the State budget and directing a \$1.5 billion General Obligation bond sale. Prior to his time at the Department of Budget and Finance, Dr. Colby served as the Chief State Economist at the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and as Tax Research and Planning Officer at the Department of Taxation.

During his time at the Department of Taxation, Dr. Colby was an instrumental part of our team. I worked regularly and closely with Dr. Colby on many projects and department initiatives and valued his dedication, collaborative style, and practical approach. Since stepping into his current role as Acting Director of Finance, I have seen Dr. Colby continue to exhibit these qualities and I appreciate the effort he has put into maintaining the partnerships and positive relationships between the Department of Budget and Finance and its sister agencies.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to confirm Dr. Colby's appointment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

APRIL 27, 2026, 12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 747

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SETH COLBY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 747.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Dr. Seth Stevens Colby. Dr. Colby is a highly skilled economist and policymaker whose record of public service demonstrates an exceptional capacity to strengthen the financial and economic well-being of the State of Hawai'i. Dr. Colby currently serves as Acting Director of Finance where he manages the State's \$20 billion budget and a six-year financial plan. His leadership in completing the largest General Obligation bond sale in Hawai'i's history at \$1.5 billion reflects his strong command of fiscal strategy capital markets and public sector financial management. He

also oversees critical statewide functions including the Employees Retirement System, the Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, and the Office of the Public Defender ensuring that public resources are managed efficiently and responsibly.

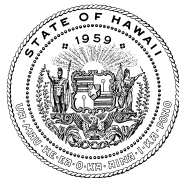
Previously, Dr. Colby served as Chief State Economist at DBEDT where he led a team of researchers responsible for economic forecasting labor market analysis industry studies and key statewide publications. His ability to clearly communicate complex economic issues made him a trusted voice on subjects such as housing affordability, tourism, performance, and long-term economic resilience. Dr. Colby strengthened the State's analytical capacity by advancing data infrastructure and modern research tools that continue to support informed decision making. In addition, he also brings a global perspective from roles at the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and Johns Hopkins University.

In addition, Dr. Colby's previous service at the Department of Taxation demonstrates a similar dedication to public value. He managed economists and statisticians, produced revenue estimates for hundreds of legislative proposals each year, and helped design the architecture for a significant tax reduction initiative benefiting working families. His leadership contributed to improvements in compliance that generated hundreds of millions in additional revenue for the State.

Dr. Seth Stevens Colby is a disciplined, thoughtful, and service-minded leader who approaches public finance with integrity and analytical rigor. His experience and character make him exceptionally well suited to continue serving the people of Hawai'i. For these reasons I respectfully and strongly support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAII' | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Monday, April 27, 2026

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 747
NOMINATION OF SETH COLBY AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
BUDGET AND FINANCE

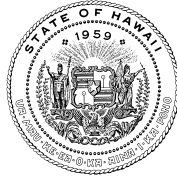
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 747 in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Seth Colby as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Colby is an economist and senior policymaker with extensive experience in budgeting, public finance, policy analysis, legislative review and tax and innovation policy. He brings eight years of experience working at the Hawai'i state level, conducting research and providing analysis and reporting to support key decision making.

His experience includes work with the Research and Economic Analysis Division, where he produced comprehensive reports on Hawai'i's economy, tourism, energy and demographics, as well as serving as a tax researcher and planning officer with the state Department of Taxation, where he analyzed the state revenue system, assessed the fiscal impacts of proposed legislation and contributed to macroeconomic forecasting. He has served as the Acting Director of Finance since December 2025.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Mr. Colby on several enterprise technology committees. He is a strong collaborator in IT modernization initiatives, particularly with enterprise financial management and budget modernization systems, encouraging innovation and supporting efforts to advance the State's technology infrastructure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY OF
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 747
Monday, April 27, 2026, 12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 211

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SETH COLBY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

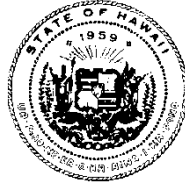
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Seth Colby as Director, Department of Budget and Finance (B&F).

Dr. Colby has been serving as the Acting Director of Finance since December of last year and has previously served as Chief State Economist at the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and Tax Planning and Research Officer at the Department of Taxation. His expertise in policy analysis and empirical research, combined with his current responsibilities in managing the State's budget and financial plan - including executive budget preparation and state debt management – demonstrate his strong qualification to lead the B&F.

I have worked with Seth for the past several months in his capacity as Acting Director of Finance and found him to be very astute, thorough, yet thoughtful in his approach. These are traits that will serve him well in the leadership role as Director of Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support and I respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

26:OED

Statement of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30 PM
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 747, to consider and confirm Mr. Seth Colby to the position of Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Since becoming the interim Director for the Department of Budget and Finance, Mr. Colby has provided leadership, support, and care to our community.

I have known Mr. Colby for some time, and I am honored to be working alongside him in Governor Green's Administration. He is an integral part of a team that is committed to addressing the many issues facing our State and I believe that he will be able to effectively fulfill his role through his life experiences and professional expertise.

There is no doubt in my mind that he will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to maximize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 747 and confirm Mr. Seth Colby to the position of Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/27/2026

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: WAM

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM747, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SETH COLBY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education is in support of the confirmation of Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby has consistently demonstrated the technical skill and extensive experience to be a great leader for the Department of Budget and Finance. In his current role as the Acting Director of Finance, Dr. Colby develops and executes Hawaii's \$20 billion state budget, coordinating fiscal strategy across all executive departments. His experience managing the allocation and disbursement of funds across general, special, and bond accounts ensures the efficient and compliant use of public resources that our schools rely upon. Furthermore, our Department depends heavily on the state's ability to fund school infrastructure and Dr. Colby recently directed the largest General Obligation bond sale in state history at \$1.5 billion, securing favorable financing terms for the State. This technical expertise is vital for the continued modernization of Hawaii's educational facilities.

In his previous role as the Chief State Economist, Dr. Colby provided sophisticated economic forecasting and cost / benefit analysis for the Council on Revenues; this skillset will be essential for navigating the heightened federal fiscal uncertainty that the state is facing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Seth Colby as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Testimony of
Mark K. Anderson

In consideration of GM No. 747
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and
Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 27, 2026, 12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this letter in support of the nomination of Dr. Seth Colby for Director of Finance.

I first met Dr. Colby during the challenging period when I was managing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. These funds required a complex Tax Offset calculation to determine the value of tax increases over a multi-year period. Dr. Colby conducted these calculations and provided critical assistance in ensuring our reporting to the U.S. Treasury was precise and accurate.

Since then, through our continued professional relationship, I have come to deeply respect Dr. Colby's expertise. I am confident that his intelligence, integrity, and dedication make him an exceptionally qualified candidate for Director of Finance.

Thank you very much for allowing me to provide this testimony.

**Testimony of Deborah Kim Morikawa, Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration,
Department of Health**

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

SENATOR DONAVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 27, 2026; 12:30 pm

Room Number: 211

I am writing in my individual capacity to express my support of the nomination and confirmation of Dr. Seth Colby to serve as Director, Department of Budget and Finance. His professional background reflects a strong foundation in public finance, economic analysis, and responsible fiscal management, all of which are essential to the effective functioning of our state.

Dr. Colby's experience leading major budget initiatives, overseeing statewide economic research functions, and providing guidance on complex fiscal issues demonstrates a clear commitment to public service and evidence-based decision-making. His work has contributed to improving Hawai'i's financial planning and economic understanding during a time of significant challenges and change.

Based on his qualifications, expertise, and record of service, I respectfully offer my support for his nomination and confirmation. I believe he will continue to contribute meaningfully to Hawai'i through thoughtful leadership and a steady, analytical approach to the responsibilities of this role.

GM-747

Submitted on: 4/23/2026 3:45:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/27/2026 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Min Meng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former colleague and a friend, I strongly support Dr. Seth Colby's confirmation for Director of Finance both professionally and personally.

Testimony of Roderick Becker

In consideration of GM No. 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 27, 2026, 12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I support the confirmation of Seth Colby as the State's Director of Finance.

Mr. Colby brings a strong understanding of Hawaii's economy and how it translates into state revenues, budgeting decisions, and long-term fiscal planning. Through his work as Chief State Economist and in tax policy and research, he has been closely involved in the analysis that underpins many of the State's financial decisions. That experience matters in a role that requires both technical judgment and a clear view of where the State is headed.

He approaches issues in a practical, data-driven way. Just as importantly, he can explain that analysis in a way that is helpful. That combination is not always easy to find, and it is essential for a position at the center of budget development, financial management, and policy implementation.

Mr. Colby also understands how State government operates. He has worked within the system, understands its constraints, and knows how to move work forward. That familiarity will help ensure continuity and stability in State operations.

The State continues to face uncertainty in revenues, ongoing infrastructure needs, and long-term fiscal pressures. These are not issues that can be managed on a short-term basis. They require steady, informed leadership. Mr. Colby's background in economic analysis and public service has positioned him to take on that responsibility.

For these reasons, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of Derek Shigano
In consideration of G.M. No. 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, April 27, 2026

12:30pm

Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the nomination of Seth Colby for Director of Finance at the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Colby has nearly 20 years of public and private sector budgeting and finance, economic forecasting, tax & innovative policy, policy analysis, and impact evaluation experience. I believe that the combination of all this experience will allow him to be an effective and efficient leader of the department.

In the short amount of time that I've had the pleasure of working for Mr. Colby, I have witnessed exceptional leadership qualities, dedication to public finance stewardship, effective communication, integrity, and compassion.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your consideration and support of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, April 27, 2026
12:30PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 747
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
SETH COLBY
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 7, 2026

Governor's Message 747 submits for consideration and confirmation, Seth Colby, as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this nomination.**

Dr. Colby brings extensive experience in economic analysis, fiscal policy and state government operations. He most recently served as Hawai'i's Chief State Economist within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, where he oversaw data collection, analysis and reporting on key sectors including tourism, labor, energy and demographics.

Dr. Colby has also served as a Tax Research and Planning Officer with the Hawai'i Department of Taxation, where he analyzed the state's revenue system, assessed the fiscal impacts of proposed legislation and oversaw macroeconomic forecasting. His work reflects more than eight years of experience at the state level supporting data-driven decision-making and long-term fiscal planning.

He holds a doctoral degree in political economy from Johns Hopkins University and has prior experience working on economic and social development initiatives with organizations including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Dr. Colby's expertise in economic research, tax policy and fiscal management will be instrumental in guiding Hawai'i's near- and long-term financial planning and policy decisions as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Seth Colby.

Testimony of Valerie M. Kato, Deputy Director of the Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Seth Colby, for a term to expire at 12-07-2026.

SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR

SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 27, 2026 at 12:30 PM

Room Number: 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in my individual capacity in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Seth Colby to serve as the Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance.

Dr. Colby's varied experience from eight years at the Department of Taxation, to his position as Executive Director at two D.C. programs and his work as an economist with the Inter-American Development Bank Group, will serve him well as he leads Hawaii's Department of Budget and Finance. I respectfully ask for confirmation of this highly qualified nominee.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

GM-747

Submitted on: 4/24/2026 6:18:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/27/2026 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I express my strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Dr. Seth Colby. His professional background a strong foundation will serve the people of Hawai'i well. His qualifications and record of service demonstrates that he is abundantly qualified to serve as the Director of Budget and Finance. Therefore, I respectfully ask for your consideration and support his nomination.

Kathleen Ho, Deputy Director For Environmental Health

Testimony of Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH, Director, Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

SENATOR DONAVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 27, 2026; 12:30 pm

Room Number: 211

I am writing in my individual capacity in support of the nomination and confirmation of Seth Colby to serve as Director, Department of Budget and Finance.

Seth has a distinguished career with a broad range of experience both internationally and in Hawaii. He has demonstrated the ability to solve complex problems by thoughtfully understanding their causes and working in a collaborative manner to address them. Seth's experience and expertise make him well qualified for the position of Director, Department of Budget and Finance. His leadership in this capacity is particularly needed at this time of balancing tax policy and fiscal management during a period of economic uncertainty.

Having served as the acting Director, Department of Budget and Finance, Seth has already demonstrated his ability to more than capably lead that department, work with the Legislature, and guide the State's budgeting, public finance, and policy analysis.

Therefore, I respectfully ask for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means' support for Mr. Colby's confirmation as the Department of Budget and Finance Director. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of
Nicki Ann Thompson

In consideration of GM No. 747
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and
Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 27, 2026, 12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this letter in support of the nomination of Dr. Seth Colby for Director of Finance.

I first met Dr. Colby in 2017 when he joined the Department of Taxation. Dr. Colby and I worked together for over eight years at the Department. Dr. Colby's knowledge of the economic environment in Hawaii as well as his ability to manage the data collection and provide analysis of this data has effectively assisted the State of Hawaii to plan for the financial impacts and economic future.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your consideration and support of his nomination as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you very much for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Joshua Wisch
629 Hanale Place
Kailua, HI 96734
joshwisch@yahoo.com

Committee: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Bill Number: GM 747, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, SETH COLBY
Hearing Time: April 27, 2026 at 12:30pm (Room 211)
Re: Testimony in Support of Seth Colby's Confirmation

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

I write in support of the nomination of Seth Colby to serve as the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Budget and Finance.

I have known and worked with Seth for almost five years, and during that time I have consistently been impressed by his intellectual rigor, skilled policy analysis, and commitment to service. Someone of Seth's abilities could easily find employment in the private sector, but he has spent almost the last ten years in Hawai'i serving the state at a high level: first as Tax Research and Planning Officer, then as the State Economist, and now – hopefully – as the Budget and Finance Director. We're fortunate to have him.

I've spent a lot of time with Seth as part of my work bringing together cross-sector voices to discuss issues of affordability and economic opportunity. Those conversations – dedicated to finding solutions to these challenges – intentionally bring together leaders from government, for-profit, non-profit, and labor sectors. Seth has been an active participant, always providing keen insights and practical recommendations, heightening the quality of our discussions and the effectiveness of our proposed policies.

Underscoring Seth's dedication to service is his consistent volunteer work on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Economic Association (HEA). I've been fortunate to attend several of the panel discussions and conferences Seth has organized for HEA, and each time I walk away with fresh insights, new connections, and tangible recommendations I can put to work. In addition to Seth's work at HEA I've frequently interacted with him at Chozen-Ji, the International Zen Dojo of Hawai'i. It's one more place where Seth volunteers his time for the community, and the focus he hones there shines in his work.

It is my honor to testify in support of Seth's nomination. Mahalo for the ability to do so.



Joshua Wisch

**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

April 27, 2026
Conference Room 211, 12:30 P.M.

Testimony in **Support** of Governor's Message **GM 747**
For Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance,
SETH COLBY

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Titin Sakata, and I serve as an Administrative Rules Specialist with the Department of Taxation. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity. I have known Dr. Colby since 2017, when he served as the Department's Tax Research and Planning Officer.

Dr. Colby is exceptionally bright and deeply solutions-oriented. In his current role as Acting Director of Finance, he has led the development and execution of the State of Hawaii's \$20 billion budget and six-year financial plan. He has provided critical guidance to the Governor, Legislature, and executive agencies on budget priorities, fiscal constraints, and policy tradeoffs, consistently grounding decisions in rigorous economic analysis.

During his tenure with the Department of Taxation, Dr. Colby delivered clear and highly technical briefings on tax measures and proposals to policymakers and the public. He was a principal architect of the \$7 billion tax reduction package aimed at supporting Hawaii's working-class households. He also established innovative research partnerships with leading institutions, including Stanford University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Hawaii.

Prior to his service with the Department of Taxation, Dr. Colby built a distinguished career in economic research and leadership, with roles at the Inter-American Development Bank Group, Johns Hopkins University, the World Bank, and the Bernard L. Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism.

I am confident that, if confirmed, Dr. Colby will skillfully guide the State of Hawaii through complex fiscal challenges and help policymakers make sound, forward-looking decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in **strong support** of Dr. Colby's appointment as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Respectfully submitted,
Titin Sakata