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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Support of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 595, JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

**AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. James Kunane Tokioka to serve as the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). Mr. Tokioka's extensive professional experience, commitment to public service, and remarkable leadership skills make him an exemplary candidate for this critical position.

His commitment to public service is demonstrated by a decade-long tenure on the Kaua'i County Council and sixteen years in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. I first came to know Mr. Tokioka during his time in the Legislature, when he was the Majority Whip, a dynamic leadership who consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the diverse needs of Hawai'i's residents. He served in various other leadership roles, including Chair of the Legislative Management and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Vice Chair of Tourism, and membership on influential committees such as Military and Veteran Affairs, Health and Human Services, Judiciary, and Hawaiian Affairs.

Mr. Tokioka's private sector experience is an important part of his strong qualifications to be DBEDT Director. As the New Business Manager at Oceanic Time Warner Cable, he directed strategic initiatives that resulted in substantial growth in hotel sales. During this time, he orchestrated Hilton Hotels and Vacation Clubs' largest single sales contract demonstrating his acumen at establishing key business partnerships.

He understands the vital role of entrepreneurs from his time as a restaurant owner. He was a partner at Terrace Restaurant at Kaua'i Lagoons and was the owner/operator of Da Box Lunch Place. Mr. Tokioka's hands-on experience in the hospitality sector uniquely positions him to understand the needs of our most significant business sector in Hawai'i.

Mr. Tokioka has already served with distinction as Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, where he has showcased his ability to lead initiatives such as effort to build a new stadium and find temporary housing for those displaced by the devastating Lahaina wildfire.

Mr. Tokioka's long-standing involvement in various community organizations, including the Līhu'e Baseball League, Easter Seals Hawai'i, and the Visitor Aloha Society of Kaua'i, reflects his commitment to the well-being of Hawai'i's residents. His service on the Board of Directors for Easter Seals Hawai'i exemplify his dedication to community development and support for individuals with disabilities.

I have enjoyed working with Mr. Tokioka and offer my endorsement of Mr. Tokioka for the position of DBEDT Director. His proven track record, diverse skill set, and unwavering commitment to the people of Hawai'i make him an outstanding candidate for this vital role. I am confident that Mr. Tokioka will continue to be a visionary leader, driving positive change and contributing to the economic prosperity of the state. I urge you to confirm his nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.