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Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96766

LATE

Re: Support of SB 2876 Relating to Employment Security

Dear Chair Baker and Committee members:

As the Director of the Office of Economic Development for the County of Kaua'i, I would first like to thank you for your past support of providing Reed Act funding to the four county Workforce Investment Boards (WIB).

Like the other counties, Kaua'i is in the process of implementing our Reed Act plan and we anticipate spending our entire allotment of \$1.2 million by December 31, 2008. While this funding is helping us make significant improvements and expansions in our delivery of labor exchange services, the work is far from over. We anticipate returning to the Legislature in the 2009 session, once our work is complete and we have results to report, to ask for additional Reed Act funding.

Toward that end, we also support the request of the County of Hawai'i to access more Reed Act funding this year. Each WIB's plan of action is unique to that County's need. While our timelines may differ, the four Hawai'i WIBs remain united in our mission to provide improved employer outreach and services, labor force pool expansion, capacity building and technology/equipment upgrades.

Continuing support of the statewide workforce initiatives will provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass HB2964, HD1 on behalf of our sister county.

Mahalo,

Beth Tokioka