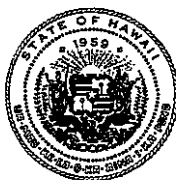


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



GREGG YAMANAKA
CHAIR

ANN YAMAMOTO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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LATE TESTIMONY

February 5, 2008

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

From: Gregg Yamanaka, Chair
Workforce Development Council

Subject: SB3084 Relating to Workforce Development Council

Transfers the Workforce Development Council from DLIR to DBEDT to assist in aligning Hawaii's workforce development policy with the State's economic development initiatives

Hearing Tuesday, February 5, 2008; 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room 016

The Workforce Development Council ("WDC") strongly supports its transfer from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations ("DLIR") to the Department of Business and Economic Development ("DBEDT") as proposed in SB3084.

The proposed transfer will essentially merge Workforce Development and Economic Development within DBEDT; a concept whose time has come. As the bill states, it will allow for consistency and alignment throughout state government, and there will be greater flexibility with respect to resource management and accountability.

In addition, WDC looks forward to the enhanced synergies that will result from the proposed move and further merging of workforce development and economic development efforts. It is very important that Hawaii implement a highly visible move

SB3084

February 5, 2008

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such as this one, to overtly demonstrate the state's desire to optimize resources to advance its economy. WDC has submitted proposals for participation in grants and other national workforce efforts that have not been selected. One of the reasons provided is that, despite the proposal's involvement of key leaders from varying disciplines throughout the state, the state has not shown a commitment to aligning its workforce development and economic development efforts. The proposed Transfer would expressly demonstrate that commitment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Yamane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "G".

The Hawaii Workforce Development Council is a private-sector led body responsible for advising the governor on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for all. It is the State's advisory commission on employment and human resources as defined by the Hawaii Revised Statutes. The council is also the State Workforce Investment Board for purposes of the Workforce Investment Act ("WIA") of 1998. It assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year strategic workforce investment plans and oversees workforce (public) investment activities in the state.