

**TESTIMONY**

**SB581**



The Voice of Small Business®

**Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and  
Hawaiian Affairs**

DATE: February 18, 2009

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

**Re: SB 581  
Relating to Eminent Domain  
Testimony of Melissa Pavlicek for NFIB Hawaii**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of the business owners who make up the membership of the National Federation of Independent Business in Hawaii, we ask that you **support** SB 581. NFIB supports this measure.

The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest advocacy organization representing small and independent businesses in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. In Hawaii, NFIB represents more than 1,000 members. NFIB's purpose is to impact public policy at the state and federal level and be a key business resource for small and independent business in America. NFIB also provides timely information designed to help small businesses succeed.

Small-business owners have expressed concern about uses of government's power to condemn property under "eminent domain." Though intended to be used for "public purposes," for example, to take land for schools or roads or parks, the governments have sometimes used this power on behalf of large businesses to take property that these businesses otherwise would have had to buy on the open market. Small-business owners are already struggling under the weight of government regulations. NFIB Hawaii supports measures such as this one which would address our members' concerns

We respectfully ask that you advance this measure.

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**SB581**  
**(END)**