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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director
and
DENNIS T. LING
Administrator, Business Development & Support
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, April 16, 2012
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 871
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Sister State Committee,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **THANH LO SANANIKONE**, for a term to expire 6-30-2016

Chair English, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Transportation and International Affairs.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism strongly supports the
nomination of Thanh Lo Sananikone to a second term to the Hawaii Sister State Committee. Ms.
Sananikone was nominated by the East-West Center.

Members of the Hawaii Sister State Committee are responsible for developing and
evaluating recommendations for all Sister-state or province relationships, and forwarding their
recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor for their approval. They are also
responsible for periodically evaluating established sister-state relationships.

The ideal candidate should also have a strong interest in, and support the development of
Hawaii as an international global leader. Ms. Sananikone is well qualified to serve a second term

on the Committee. She is a well known business management consultant with clients in Asia and the Pacific , and her community service includes leadership roles on boards of Hawaii organizations that have a strong focus on education, culture and the arts and serving the immigrant population.

Ms. Sananikone can continue to provide outstanding service to the Hawaii Sister State Committee, and the Committee would be extremely fortunate to have her remain as a member for a second term. I urge you to give her nomination your strongest consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.



EAST-WEST CENTER
LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Submitted to:
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Monday, April 16, 2012
Conference Room 224

Submitted by:
Charles E. Morrison, President, East-West Center
Telephone Number: 944-7103

Support for GM 871

Chair English, Vice Chair Espero and members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nomination of Thanh-Lo Sananikone to the Hawai'i Sister State Committee. Ms. Sananikone is the nominee of the East-West Center as provided for in Act 150, Section 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2006.

The Center has nominated Ms. Sananikone because of her international background, her international work with our alumni, her familiarity with Sister State relationships, her international business work, including leadership of State trade and medical missions, and her outstanding and highly diversified record of institutional and community service, including service to immigrant and underserved populations in our State.

Ms. Sananikone was born in Vietnam and came to the United States as an East-West Center grantee to study at the University of Hawai'i in 1964. She married another student grantee, Mr. Puongpun Sananikone, and spent some time in the 1970s in her husband's native country of Laos and then in the Philippines after the communist take-over of Laos. She returned to the United States in 1978, and has been living in Hawai'i since the early 1980s. She has worked as an intermediate school teacher and a trading and training company executive. Since 1994, she has been the Managing Director of PacMar, Inc., a company that does international training and coordinates environmental and development projects in Asia. She concurrently oversees TAF International, a trading and consulting company. Her acumen in business has earned her awards from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Ms. Sananikone's community work includes numerous voluntary boards, and other service with the Hawai'i/Pacific District Export Council, Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, the Vietnamese-American Chamber of Commerce, the Aloha Medical Mission, and the Mutual Assistance Associations Center, a group that works with immigrants and underserved populations (including Hawaiians and Samoans) that she helped found and of which she is Vice President/Treasurer.

In 2006, Ms. Sananikone played an instrumental, central role in organizing and bringing to Vietnam the East-West Center/East-West Center Association's International Conference on "Building an Asia Pacific Community for Sustainable Development, attended by more than 550 persons. This was one of the largest non-governmental meetings ever held in Hanoi, and I witnessed first-hand Ms. Sananikone's incredible talents for organization, negotiation, and occasional mediation of a very complex undertaking involving numerous Vietnamese public and private institutions. This huge international meeting could not have taken place but for her.

I can attest that Ms. Sananikone is absolutely dedicated to any task for which she volunteers. I cannot imagine anyone more qualified to serve on the Hawai'i Sister State Committee. She will bring an incredible background in many fields of work, outstanding internationalized inter-personal skills, and a sense of mission and dedication that truly exemplifies the commitment to and leadership in international community building that we foster through the East-West Center.