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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
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April 14, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro and  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Allicyn Hikida Tasaka, Interim Executive Director  
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 643 Gubernatorial Nominee Winona Whitman to the Workforce Development  
Council for a term to expire June 30, 2018 (as amended in GM779)  
Hearing:

POSITION: Strong Support

Good morning Chair Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor. I am Allicyn Tasaka, Interim Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of Ms. Winona Whitman's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2018 as amended in GM 779. Ms. Whitman would fill a slot reserved for a workforce sector member in the category of Native Hawaiian organization representation on the Council.

The WDC is an attached agency to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and is responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for employers and employees. The WDC is the State Workforce Development Board for purposes of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. The WDC assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive, strategic workforce development plans and oversees publicly funded workforce investment activities in the state.

For the past 35 years, Ms. Whitman has served as Director, Statewide Department of Employment and Training at Alu Like, Inc. (Honolulu). She is also a member of the Advisory Council of the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC) which is a national Indian and Native American employment and training association. Among the goals of the Conference is to gather and share information with individuals and organizations involved with Indian and Native American employment and training programs.

Ms. Whitman's extensive knowledge of the WIOA Subtitle D-National Programs Section 166 Native American Programs (INA programs) is a valuable resource for WDC.

In this critical year, WDC has been preparing the WIOA Hawaii Unified State Plan. The plan covers the six core formula grant programs authorized under WIOA and outlines the state's vision and strategy for carrying out activities under each program. The WIOA plan is a requirement in order for Hawaii to receive the bulk of federal funding for the State's primary job training and placement activities.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Ms. Whitman as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he would be a valuable asset by providing guidance on Native Hawaiian issues to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.