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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 06, 2016
2:45pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
GM 651
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
SISTER STATE COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
EDUARDO TOPENIO, JR., FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019.**

Vice Chair English and Members of the Committee on Tourism and International Affairs.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports GM 651, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, **EDUARDO TOPENIO JR.**, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Members of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee are responsible for evaluating and developing recommendations for all sister-state relationships, and forwarding their recommendations to the Legislature. They are also responsible for periodically evaluating established sister-state relationships. The ideal candidate should have a strong interest in, and support the development of Hawaii as an international global leader.

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Mr. Topenio has a sustained career in the hospitality industry and served in a leadership position as the Deputy County Clerk for the County of Kauai. He is active in the community and has served as the President of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce and on the boards of the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center, Kauai Hospice and Kapaa Rotary Club.

We ask your favorable consideration and confirmation of **EDUARDO TOPENIO JR.** to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

From: amy_agbayani
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: april 6 @ 2:45pm Support for GM 651 Topenio submitted by Agbayani, HFCR
Date: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 12:15:22 PM

Testimony in support of GM 651: EDUARDO TOPENIO JR.

Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 225

April 6,2016 @ 2:45

To: Vice Chair Kalani English and members of the Committee
From: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819
amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

My name is Amy Agbayani , co-chair of the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights and I am providing testimony in strong support of Eduardo Topenio Jr. to the Hawai'i Sister State Committee. HFCR supports individuals, programs and policies that promote equal access, social justice and peace. I have had many opportunities to observe Mr. Topenio's competence, dedication and leadership as an undergraduate student at Manoa and Operation Manong tutor. He has a proven track record of accomplishments and will continue to make a contribution as a hard working, independent and thoughtful member of this important state committee. I believe, his long and varied experience in government, the private sector and community organizations demonstrates his abilities and willingness to serve our community. In addition, it is important to note that this committee will be interacting with the tourist industry which is an area of expertise for Mr. Topenio. He will be able to work effectively and collaboratively with members of this committee and I am confident that his judgment will be valuable to the work of this committee.

In my professional and community work, I am involved in efforts to gain equity for under-represented groups, such as Filipinos. The Filipino community is the second largest ethnic group in the state and the public schools but continue to be underrepresented at UH, professional positions and government and private governing boards. Appointing dedicated and talented Filipinos is not only fair but will strengthen the State's efforts to support sister state relationships.

I also want to take this public opportunity to thank Mr. Topenio for his expertise, leadership and public service. HRCR strongly supports Mr. Topenio's nomination.