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LATE TESTIMONY

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 661 Gubernatorial Nominee Beth Whitehead to the Workforce Development Council
for a term to expire June 30, 2019
Hearing: Monday, April 18, 2016 @ 9:30am, State Capitol Room 325

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. Beth Whitehead's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2019. Ms. Whitehead would fill a slot reserved for a private sector business member 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.

Beth Whitehead, JD is Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of American Savings Bank (ASB) where she oversees a wide range of functions, including Human Resources, Learning and Development, Community Advancement, Communications, Public Relations, Government Affairs, Corporate Real Estate and Facilities, Legal, Compliance, and Corporate Security. Additionally, she is overseeing the planning and construction of ASB's new campus.

Ms. Whitehead is responsible for ASB's employee experience and serves as the executive champion of the Employee Excellence Council which focuses on creating and enhancing the

“ultimate employee experience.” She develops programs and benefits that provide opportunities for teammates to fulfill their careers within the bank.

Ms. Whitehead’s experience with employee programs; her promotion of volunteerism through ASB’s “Seeds of Service” program; and her own volunteer positions on community boards of directors show that she is committed to improving the employee experience in her own organization and the quality of life in our community.

In this critical year, WDC has been preparing the Hawaii WIOA 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. Whitehead as a member of the Workforce Development Council where she would be a valuable asset to the Council.

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