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To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

Testimony in Support of Governor's Message GM 873
For Consideration and Confirmation to the Tax Review Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
DAWN LIPPERT
for a Term to Expire June 30, 2019

The Department of Taxation (Department) supports the nomination of Dawn Lippert to the Tax Review Commission (Commission). Ms. Lippert is a qualified candidate to serve on the Commission and encourages this Committee to confirm her nomination.

Ms. Lippert earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental studies and a Master's degree in environmental management from Yale University. She is the co-founder and the Director of the Energy Excelerator, Hawaii's first business accelerator and the Asia Pacific's only energy accelerator. Ms. Lippert raised \$34 million of public and private funding for the Energy Excelerator, and designs and manages a \$25 million project portfolio with companies that are involved in commercializing technologies in energy, water, transportation, agriculture, and security. Prior to her work at the Energy Excelerator, Ms. Lippert was a Senior Consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in the Washington D.C. area where she drafted the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) legislation and developed strategies, implementation plans, energy models, and financial analysis for HCEI.

Ms. Lippert is active in the community as the Chair of Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Advisory Board, and as the founder of Women in Renewable Energy. In addition, she also serves as a board member for the Entrepreneur's Foundation of Hawaii, YWCA of Oahu, the Department of Education's Clean Energy Incubator Network, and University of Hawaii's Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship.

The Department believes that Ms. Lippert's business and consulting background will be beneficial to the Commission in conducting a systematic review of State's tax structure, using standards as equity and efficiency. The Department supports Ms. Lippert's nomination and respectfully requests the Senate's favorable confirmation.