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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 877
For Consideration and Confirmation to the Tax Review Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
RAY BLOUIN
for a Term to Expire June 30, 2019

The Department of Taxation (Department) supports the nomination of Raymond N. Blouin to the Tax Review Commission (Commission). Mr. Blouin is a qualified candidate to serve on the Commission and encourages this Committee to confirm his nomination.

Mr. Blouin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Chicago State University and has over 35 years of hospitality industry experience. He is the General Manager of Hilton Garden Inn Kauai Wailua Bay (Hilton). Prior to joining the Hilton, Mr. Blouin was the General Manager of Aston Aloha Beach Hotel from 2008 to 2016, Aston Kauai Beach at Makaiwa from 2007 to 2009, Hanalei Bay Resort from 1999 to 2007, Lae nani Resort from 1995 to 1999, and Waimea Plantation Cottages from 1986 to 1999. As the General Manager of these hotels, Mr. Blouin is responsible for the management of all resort operations (budget, revenue and expenses, training, performance evaluation, and staff relations), including hotel ownership, construction, and brand transitions.

Mr. Blouin is active in his community with extensive service with organizations such as the Kauai Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Employer's Council, Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association, Royal Coconut Coast Association, Kauai Business Council, County of Kauai – Mayor's Crime Task Force, Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School, and West Kauai Rotary Club.

The Department believes that Mr. Blouin's extensive experience in the hospitality industry 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 Mr. Blouin's nomination and respectfully requests the Senate's favorable confirmation.