

DATE: March 29, 2016
9:30 AM
Conference Room 414

TO: Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Members of
the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

MEASURE: HB 2289 HD2

SUBJ: Testimony in Support HB 2289 HD2

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. My name is Bob Hall, partner with Pacific Growth Associates, and I submit testimony in support of HB 2289 HD2.

Community based organizations (CBOs) in Hawaii have played an important role in supporting economic development, education, health and small business within their respective communities. They are catalytic in nurturing local, sustainable initiatives. Most seek grant and private funding year round for operational support and key community projects. Many also seek Legislative support each year through Grant in Aide.

The Community-based Economic Development Revolving Fund, facilitated by DBEDT, provides yet another opportunity for CBOs. These proposed changes to the Hawaii Community-Based Economic Development Technical and Financial Assistance Program provides program enhancements to definition and qualification, program efficiency through a smaller advisory council, and program compliance for non-discrimination. HB 2289 HD2 further seeks appropriate funding to “make all of this happen”.

Pacific Growth Associates (PGA) is a strong advocate for successful CBOs. During the last 3 years, PGA has leveraged over \$50 million in private equity through the New Market Tax Credit Program, which in turn have built 3 federally qualified health centers, 1 commercial kitchen and the 1 community center on Hawaiian homestead lands.

PGA supports HB 2289 HD2 and its intended results, as it will further help CBOs.



Waianae Economic Development Council

Date: March 28, 2016

To: Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Joseph W. Lapilio III, President and CEO
Waianae Economic Development Council
PO Box 737
Waianae, HI 96792

RE **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2289, HD2**

Aloha Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB2289.

My name is Joseph Lapilio. I am the President and CEO of the Waianae Economic Development Council, formerly known as the Waianae Coast Coalition. **I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2289** to make changes to current definitions in the DBEDT Community-based Economic Development Program.

The Community-Based Economic Development Program in DBEDT has been an instrumental and essential partner in our efforts on the Waianae Coast to identify, stimulate and facilitate economic development opportunities that benefit our residents.

In the past several years, their role as a partner in community-based economic development initiatives in our community have been hamstrung by the inability to direct resources toward the technical assistance needs of our community's organizations attempting to develop economic strategies that will help their organizations and the people these organizations serve. Community-based economic development is about capacity building and this requires training and technical assistance. For this purpose, we also agree with the removal of any imposition of time period for this service by the DBEDT-CBED program.

More importantly, the program needs resources to conduct this work. Shifting departmental priorities over the past several administrations have not included those of us who work at the grassroots level identifying and moving forward ideas and ultimately job-creating enterprises that train and employ residents and increase economic opportunities in our communities. Wishing for economic development is not a path to prosperity in our community. It must be backed by resources that follow commitment.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2289 and more importantly, in support of the DBEDT Community-based Economic Development Program.