



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND
TECHNOLOGY**

Monday, March 28, 2016
1:20 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 414

in consideration of
SCR164/SR125

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
FINANCE, AND DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GRANTING AN EXEMPTION FOR THE SALE OF GOODS
AND SERVICES TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE STATE GENERAL
EXCISE TAX.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on SCR164/SR125, which requests DBEDT to conduct a study on the economic impact of granting an exemption for the sale of goods and services to the federal government from the State General Excise Tax. DBEDT would like to provide the following comments:

1. In FY2014, the federal government awarded \$2.9 billion in grants and \$2.2 billion in contracts within Hawaii.¹ However, extensive analysis and data collection would be required to estimate the amount of federal spending that would be subject to Hawaii's General Excise Tax. DBEDT does not have the adequate resources to collect all the data required for this analysis.

¹ 2016. Federal Spending in the States 2005-2014. The PEW Charitable Trusts. March. pp 6.

2. We estimate that the cost to hire a firm to collect the required data would be \$200,000.
3. As noted in the resolutions, collaboration with DOTAX would be beneficial for this analysis. Due to data confidentiality, DBEDT employees do not have access to the State tax data.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the above comments.

It is important to note that, for the sales services to be used and consumed in Hawaii, the out-of-state businesses referred to in the Whereas provisions of this resolution would typically be subject to the GET for the same activity that in-state businesses would be, assuming that the out-of-state businesses have nexus with Hawaii. Services used and consumed outside Hawaii are already exempt from the GET, pursuant to section 237-29.53, HRS. In addition, for taxpayers that do business within and without the State, section 237-21, HRS, allows for apportionment.

If the competitive disadvantage faced by in-state businesses referenced in this measure does in fact exist, it is an issue related to enforcement of the tax laws. The Department has systems in place through which taxpayers may report suspected nonpayment of taxes by other parties. Individuals may anonymously report information on non-filers via email, phone or fax.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 3:16 AM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR125 on Mar 28, 2016 13:20PM*

SR125

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for EET on Mar 28, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments:

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