



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and
Technology, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 1:25 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 1192 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent** of SB 1192, which establishes a Kapolei jobs initiative pilot program that offers incentives to increase the number of businesses willing to establish themselves or open a new location in the Kapolei region; establishes a tax credit, until 12/31/2024, as part of the Kapolei jobs initiative pilot program.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This initiative will realize the State's long standing policy of redirecting growth to the second urban core, creating jobs in the Kapolei region and reducing traffic congestion. More jobs in the Kapolei region are needed to keep pace with Kapolei's population growth. This is evident in the traffic congestion caused by the number of people who still have to commute to downtown Honolulu for work every day. Job creation in the Kapolei region is a quality-of-life, community-building concern affecting employers and employees alike.

We encourage you to support this bill that will bring jobs to the Kapolei region affecting the lives of many. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.