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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MARCH 28, 2017 2:47 P.M.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 59

**URGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO DULY CONSIDER
WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES WHEN AWARDING STATE CONTRACTS.**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR 59. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill.

The State should have a Small Business program that encourages the development of our local businesses, such as those that are owned by Native Hawaiians, women and our veterans. The economic result is overall growth to the strength of the State of Hawaii. Encouraging these subsets essentially encourages diversity which drives innovation.

SB1059 SD1 and HB1382 HD1 SD1 support a first phase initiative developing the State Small Business key areas through statistics. This initiative is a message to the small businesses in Hawaii that the State of Hawaii is invested in healthy growth of the economy through local foods, services and products.

Thank you.



Testimony by:
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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March 28, 2017
2:47 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

S.C.R. 59
URGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO DULY CONSIDER
WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES WHEN AWARDING STATE CONTRACTS

Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R. 59 which encourages state departments and agencies to duly consider women-owned businesses when awarding state contracts.

DOT administers the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program which provides opportunities for women-owned firms to participate on federal-aid contracts. However, within DOT, the number of professional services contracts are limited, and therefore, encouraging the utilization of women-owned businesses by all state departments and agencies would provide an even greater opportunity for women-owned firms. Passing S.C.R. 59 will serve to level the playing field for women in traditionally male-dominated professions such as construction management, architecture and engineering.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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March 27, 2017

To: Kim, Baker, Inouye, Kidani, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen, Tokuda, Galuteria

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SCR 59

URGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO DULY CONSIDER WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES WHEN AWARDING STATE CONTRACTS.

Hearing: Thursday, March 28, 2017, at 2:47, Room 224

Dear Committee Members;

My name is Melek Yalcintas and I am the president and owner of AMEL Technologies, Inc. (AMEL), an engineering consulting firm located in Honolulu, HI.

I have been trying to advocate and bring people's attention to discrimination against women architects and engineers. To this end, I support the proposed SCR 59 because it documents the discrimination against women architects and engineers. However, this Bill does nothing to stop discrimination against women architects and engineers in Hawaii. As it is known, discrimination is crime against Federal and State Laws and humanity all together. I would expect the courageous Hawaii Legislators would take the needed action which is mandating the State Departments and County Agencies to award at least 10% of Architect and Engineering (A&E) contracts to Women Owned A&E firms.

Sincerely,

AMEL Technologies, Inc.

Melek Yalcintas, Ph.D., P.E., CxA, CEM, LEED AP
President