



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**Luis P. Salaveria**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY**

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

**GM 597**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM MIELCKE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 06-30-2022.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) recommends your **strong support** of Mr. William F. Mielcke to be confirmed for the NELHA Board of Directors. He has a long history of contributing to the economic development of West Hawaii as a successful businessman. He is very qualified to fill this important position.

My deputy director and I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Mielcke over the past two years during his tenure on the NELHA Board of Directors. He has served as Chair of the NELHA Board of Directors for the past year. His understanding of government, planning, and economic development, combined with corporate management in the private sector, provide him with strong qualifications for the NELHA Board of Directors. In addition, over the years, we have valued his opinion on critical issues facing NELHA. His realistic assessment of issues and straight-forward thinking has been valuable.

Mr. Mielcke has a strong background in visitor industry, corporate management, marketing, real estate and property management. His private sector experience contributes to the board's ability evaluate new opportunities and strategic direction. Mr. Mielcke has played a key role in the development of West Hawaii for the past 57 years. NELHA needs Directors who can see the "big picture" and understand how the pieces of our economic future fit together. Mr. Mielcke possesses these skills.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for GM 597.

Statement of  
**William F. Mielcke**

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY**

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

1:15pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

**GM 597**

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE WILLIAM F. MIELCKE AS A MEMBER OF THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Aloha Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

I am very interested continuing to serve on the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) Board of Directors. As you may know, I have been serving on the NELHA Board of Directors since 2016 and currently serve as Chair of the Board.

I have been a resident of Hawaii for the past 57 years. I have had the opportunity to see the West Hawaii region grow and participate in its development over the years. My background in the visitor industry and resort development as well as the past two years on the NELHA BOD provides me with the knowledge to understand the steps necessary to lay the foundation for sustainable long-term growth.

I have watched, with great interest over the past 37 years, NELHA grow from a single research building on Keahole Point into the economic engine it is today. I think the focus on marine science, aquaculture, and advanced energy is a perfect fit for West Hawaii. The “sustainable” aspect of the technology park is a perfect compliment to the existing visitor industry properties along the Kona-Kohala coastline.

NELHA has significant potential for the future and has sometimes been referred to as the “diamond in the rough”. I would like to continue to volunteer my time to see NELHA realize its full potential and give back to the community some of the many benefits I have received living in Hawaii over the years.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments.

**GM-597**

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 11:10:22 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Crouch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is John Crouch. I support the nomination of William Mielcke to the Board of NELHA.

I have been in the Renewable Energy business since 1975 in Hawaii and have had the pleasure of coming to know Bill through various committees and projects. He will bring experience and good judgement to the BOD that will help move the facility to new achievements in renewable energy support.

Aloha, John Crouch

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