



**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 JUDICIARY**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of  
**HB 2455, HD1**  
**RELATING TO MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM FOR  
THE 2018 GANNENMONO CELEBRATION.**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** HB 2455, HD1, which makes an emergency appropriation to DBEDT for the 2018 Gannemono Celebration.

The Gannemono Celebration commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first group of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii. A collective effort of 20 community organizations in Hawaii dedicated to perpetuating the history of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii are together planning events during this auspicious year-long celebration. These events will foster friendships between Hawaii and Japan and honor the legacy of the Gannemono and the contributions that have been made in Hawaii through the years.

The Japan-Hawaii relationship is important from an economic development standpoint. DBEDT supports building these relationships through cultural, educational and business exchanges that strengthen Hawaii's economic activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-2455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:23:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/13/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: