



**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 WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, March 29, 2018

10:50 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

HB2455, HD1, SD1

**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM FOR THE 2018
GANNENMONO CELEBRATION.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments to HB2455, HD1, SD1, which makes an emergency appropriation to DBEDT for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration:

- a formal request has been sent to the Governor to release \$150,000 of DBEDT's restricted funds from FY18;
- a sole-source approval is being sought from the SPO agent, the Japan-American Society of Hawaii (JASH); and
- a contract with JASH is under review at the AG's office.

The Gannenmono events will foster friendships between Hawaii and Japan and honor the legacy of the first group of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 10:47:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: