



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 975, HD 1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HB 975, HD 1, which creates an advisory council for global economic competitiveness of fifteen or more knowledgeable representatives to recommend policy, so long as it does not displace Administration priorities.

DBEDT estimates that funding in the sum of \$150,000 for each year of the upcoming biennium is necessary to implement this bill and undertake the tasks specified.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 22, 2017

**Testimony to Finance Committee
Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. Room 308**

RE: HOUSE BILL 975 HD1, RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dear Chair Luke and members of the Finance Committee,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC) **supports** HB 975 HD1, creates an Advisory Council for Global Economic Competitiveness to be attached to DBEDT. Directs the council to recommend policy additions and changes to attract more foreign direct investment and increase state exports abroad. Appropriates funds.

The KKCC is West Hawai'i's leading business organization, representing over 500 businesses. As the largest business organization on Hawai'i Island and fourth largest chamber of commerce in the state, KKCC exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

There is a need and opportunity for our State to grow its competitiveness in the international marketplace and the Hawaiian International Economic and Investment Leadership Act would assist in developing more opportunities for foreign direct investment. This bill supports business growth, job creation and the economic well-being of our State.

On behalf of over 500 businesses on Hawai'i Island, I respectfully ask for your support for HB 975 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa,



Kirstin Kahaloa, Executive Director
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce