



**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

Friday, February 23, 2018
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 2887
RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** SB 2887 appropriating funds relating to the 25th Anniversary of the Hawaii-Taiwan Sister State relationship.

The business, cultural, educational and historical ties between Taiwan and Hawaii are numerous and longstanding. Since the signing of this sister state agreement in 1993, the State of Hawaii has established a trade and investment office in Taipei. This office has helped to reinforce exports of Hawaii's products and services to Taiwan, and investments from Taiwan.

The Taiwan-Hawaii relationship is important from an economic development standpoint. DBEDT supports building these relationships through cultural, educational and business exchanges supported by the Sister State agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.