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**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  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE  
ARTS**

Thursday, March 22, 2018  
10:20 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 429

in consideration of

**SB 2896, SD1  
RELATING TO THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE  
EMIGRANTS TO HAWAII.**

Chair LoPresti, Vice Chair Fukumoto and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** SB 2896, SD1, relating to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first arrival of Japanese emigrants to Hawaii and appropriates funds as a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

The Gannenmono 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 Gannenmono 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.

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**SB-2896-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:21:43 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

# HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

**TO:** Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Chair  
Representative Beth Fukumoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

**FROM:** Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director  
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Committee:** Thursday, March 22, 2018  
10:20 a.m.  
Conference Room 429

**RE: SB 2896, Relating to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai'i**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation, I am writing in **support for SB 2896** relating to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i.

The bill would appropriate funds to support the presentation and coordination of events and programs to celebrate and commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first arrival of Japanese emigrants to Hawai'i by providing a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

The heritage of Hawai'i is reflected in both the distinct and intertwined histories of the peoples and cultures who have come to the Islands and made their homes here. The anniversary commemorations for milestones that mark significant dates related to historic events provide opportunities for the residents and visitors of Hawai'i to learn about how history unfolded, the people who contributed to the stories of the Islands, and the importance for contemporary and future generations. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Japanese emigrants to Hawai'i is one such occasion and should be marked with public educational and commemorative activities.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF) has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

HHF supports this bill to provide funding support for the planning and implementation of the anniversary recognition. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.