



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
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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

Wednesday, February 28, 2018
11:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 2896

**RELATING TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE
EMIGRANTS TO HAWAII.**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** SB 2896 relating to the 150th 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 150th 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.

SB-2896

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:19:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments: