



**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**

Tuesday, April 3, 2018  
10:20 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**SCR 20**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE STATE-OWNED LAND AND ESTABLISH  
A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A RACE TRACK FACILITY ON THE  
ISLAND OF OAHU**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments to SCR 20, which requests DBEDT to identify possible state-owned land and establish a public-private partnership to build a race track facility.

- DBEDT may not be the appropriate agency to identify available state-owned land for a race track facility.
- Without adequate funding for specialized expertise, DBEDT is not equipped to put together a request for proposal for a public-private partnership to design, finance, and operate a race track facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**SCR-20**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 9:20:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:20:00 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:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith- Agaran, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR20** requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify possible state-owned land to build a race track facility on the island of Oahu.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR20** and supports its passage.

**SCR20** requests Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to identify possible state-owned land to build a race track facility on the island of Oahu and to collaborate with racing enthusiasts and organizations to discuss racing needs and to enter into a public- private partnership by issuing a request for proposal to design, finance, and operate a race track facility on the identified state-owned land.

Specifically, the Platform of the DPH provides that "[w]e believe that government plays a vital role in nurturing and regulating our economic system. We believe that private and public employers, as responsible members of community, by providing good jobs and fair pay and benefits, are essential for economic expansion, diversification, innovation, and entrepreneurship. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 56-59 (2016)).

Given that **SCR20** requests Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to identify possible state-owned land to build a race track facility on the island of Oahu and to collaborate with racing enthusiasts and organizations to discuss racing needs and to enter into a public- private partnership by

issuing a request for proposal to design, finance, and operate a race track facility on the identified state-owned land, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.  
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja  
Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities of the DPH  
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

## **Support of SCR 120**

I am writing to support the approval of SCR 120, which ultimately and hopefully will result in a racetrack on Oahu. I was actively involved with Hawaii Raceway Park before it closed. I am a car guy. Currently, I write car reviews for the Honolulu Star Advertiser and Hi Lux magazine, and I have a TV show on OC-16 called Island Driver TV. I am also on the board of the Hawaii Region of the Sports Car Club of America.

When Hawaii Raceway Park was open, it had drag racing, road racing, a dirt circle track, motorcycle racing on paved and dirt surfaces, autocross, drifting, and go cart racing, which resulted in every weekend being fully booked with racing plus many times lots of spectators. During the weekdays, tourists would attend a racing school to learn how to drive Formula Ford racecars, and then drive those cars on the road course.

Needless to say, the automotive community on Oahu has been very disappointed that no new track has been developed on Oahu since 2006. As you may be aware, there are tracks on Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island, which I understand are on county land but operated by private entities. Consider this comparison... if there was only one golf course on Oahu, and it closed what would be the reaction.

Another concern is street racing and drifting occurring on public roads. With a track on Oahu, I believe

that illegal activity would be lessened because a lawful alternative would be available.

For all these reasons, I urge the Legislature to approve this resolution.

Ed Kemper, Attorney at law  
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