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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 28, 2019
10:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 285, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA or Department). This testimony relates to all DCCA program IDs other than the program ID for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC, as an independent attached agency, will present testimony separately regarding its budget.

The Department supports S.B. 285, which appropriates funds for a modified base budget for the DCCA, with requested amendments. The Department understands this bill complements the DCCA's budget "add-on request" bill, S.B. 812, and as such, requests the two bills be appropriately reconciled to capture appropriations and budget adjustments relating to the Department's collective bargaining, other post-employment benefits, position conversions, and trade-offs, in addition to its base budget.

The Department understands that position conversions and budget adjustments relating to those conversions will be captured in this bill. The DCCA has three budget requests for the below conversions and requests that these be incorporated into this measure:

- For CCA-191/AH (Office of Administrative Hearings), a conversion of five temporary positions to permanent positions;
- For CCA-111/CA (Business Registration Division), a conversion of eight temporary positions to permanent positions; and
- For CCA-111/CA (Business Registration Division), a conversion of an office assistant position to a staff attorney position, with a corresponding budget adjustment.

Since this committee reviewed the Department's current budget and budget request during the joint session of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health on January 10, 2019, this testimony does not repeat an overview of the DCCA's functions, program IDs, priorities, and methods of funding. See

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM-CPH_01-10-19_CCA.pdf.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

February 28, 2019
10:05 a.m.

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 285 SD1

TITLE: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS.

DESCRIPTION: Appropriates funds for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission is in **support** of this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) is in support of this measure. As an agency administratively attached to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Commission respectfully requests this measure be modified to ensure the Commission’s base budget of \$15,470,219 for both fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 is included in the appropriation for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

The Commission has separately provided testimony for S.B. No. 812 that describes the Commission’s requested budget additions. The Commission understands S.B. 285 SD1 complements the DCCA’s budget additions requests in S.B. No. 812, and as such, requests the two bills be appropriately reconciled to capture appropriations for the DCCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.