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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Friday, March 22, 2019  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**On the following measure:  
S.R. 133, REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE  
TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZED SPORTS GAMBLING**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Wakai 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). The Department offers comments on this resolution, which: (1) requests that the DCCA establish a task force to study the feasibility of legalized sports gambling in Hawaii; (2) requires the Director of the DCCA or the Director's designee to serve as the chairperson of the task force; (3) requires the Department to provide administrative support; and (4) requests the task force to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2020.

Should this resolution pass, the Department would be willing to serve as a member of the task force; however, it lacks the requisite expertise to serve as the chairperson of or provide administrative support to the task force. State-sanctioned sports gambling is outside the jurisdiction of the DCCA, which serves the public through

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business registration and professional licensure, monitoring the financial solvency of local financial institutions and insurance companies, and investigating complaints of unfair business practices and license violations. Given the tailored mission of the DCCA, it would be difficult to use existing staff expertise to establish or chair a legalized sports gambling task force for administrative purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.