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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Friday, April 9, 2021
3:00PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
and Videoconference

in consideration of
GM 804
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee,
Gubernatorial Nominee, EDUARDO TOPENIO JR.,
for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** GM 804, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Mr. Eduardo Topenio Jr.**, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

The Hawaii Sister-State Committee was created by the Legislature in 2006 within DBEDT in order to advise the Governor and the Legislature on matters relating to Sister-State or province relations, and relations in general, between the State of Hawaii and the states or provinces of foreign countries.

Eduardo Topenio, Jr. has served in various capacities in the Office of the County Clerk of Kauai since 2010. He is bilingual and has volunteered his time in numerous community organizations including the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce where he served as President in 2014.

Mr. Topenio has served as a member of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee since 2014 and continues to contribute to the workings of the committee. He has a depth of understanding and knowledge about the local government of Kauai and has provided international expertise and guidance related to Kauai's Filipino community activities and events. His experience, skills and

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demonstrated commitment to Hawaii's relationships with foreign entities will prove invaluable to our State and our communities.

We humbly ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of **Mr. Eduardo Topenio Jr.** to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.