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

**Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Monday, April 5, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.C.R. 166, S.D. 1, URGING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND ATTACHED AGENCIES  
TO TRAIN THEIR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

Chair Nakashima 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 appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers comments.

The purpose of this resolution is to urge state departments and attached agencies to provide training for all members of their boards and commissions subject to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 84-17.

Over 50 boards and commissions are administratively attached to the DCCA, including numerous professional and vocational licensing boards, and the board of directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. As such, this resolution could have a significant impact on the DCCA. The Department appreciates the intent of this resolution to appropriately train board members so that they may effectively fulfill their board responsibilities, and it agrees that board members should receive training.

In the Department's experience, effective board training could include training that is appropriate for any board member, such as sunshine law, administrative rulemaking, and ethics training, as well as training specific to the particular board or commission. Recognizing the significant time requirements already placed on volunteer board members by virtue of participating in board meetings, the Department urges the Committee to support online, on-demand training, where feasible, to reduce travel and per diem costs and to minimize inconvenience to board members. In addition, because this resolution places additional burdens on departments that house boards and commissions, as well as agencies that must conduct training, the resolution should urge adequate funding to all affected departments and agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.