



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Friday, March 11, 2022
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

in consideration of
GM 728 and GM 729
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Community-Based Economic
Development Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Roberta Melton, for a term to
expire 06-30-2022 and 06-30-2026.**

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Misalucha and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** GM 728 and GM 729, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Roberta Melton, for a term to expire 06-30-2022 and 06-30-2026.

Ms. Melton has volunteered her time and expertise to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council to fill a vacant Kauai County representative position on the CBED Advisory Council for a 4-year term.

Ms. Melton is recognized in the community as a strategy leader, organizational director, and business advocate. She is a workforce advocate and proven herself as a results-oriented executive director who has been a driver of successful community-industry engagement initiatives. Among her recognitions and awards, she has been recognized in 12 Women that Have Shaped the History of the BioHealth Capitol Region (BioBuzz 2020, honored in biosciences with the Robbie Melton Women in Bio Scholarship Fund (since 2010), and featured in the Leadership Exhibit Spotlight, MD Women's Heritage Center: Maryland Women in STEM (2011).

Ms. Melton has proven herself an effective Senior Leader experienced in transforming organizations with strategic vision, programs and a focused team. She has exhibited a keen sense of seeing opportunities, working with board of directors and staff to meet objectives and

DBEDT Testimony
GM 728 and 729
March 11, 2022
Page 2 of 2

goals. She is experienced in entrepreneurial activities, securing capital, and strategizing business and revenue growth.

Ms. Melton currently serves as the Hawaii Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) Director (July 2020 – present) on the Island of Kauai. Previous positions she has held in Hawaii include: Director for the Kauai County's Office of Economic Development (January 2019 – April 2020); and Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) – Executive Director & CEO (February 2014 – December 2018).

The Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Program incorporates community vision and values into an effective strategy to achieve community goals by empowering communities, increasing capacity, and conserving local resources.

The experience, skills, and commitment Ms. Melton brings to the CBED Program and CBED Advisory Council will prove invaluable to our State, Department and communities.

We ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of **Ms. Roberta Melton** to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council to expire 06-30-2022 and 06-30-2026 respectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.