



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of  
**Chris J. Sadayasu**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Thursday, April 13, 2022  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**GM 643**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Community Based Economic Development Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, TEENA RASMUSSEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports GM 643**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Teena Rasmussen, for a term to expire 6-30-2027.

Ms. Rasmussen has unselfishly volunteered her time and expertise to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council for a 4-year term.

The Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Program was created by the Legislature for the purpose of establishing a program of technical assistance and financial assistance for community-based organizations to assist in the establishment and development of community-based enterprises in the State. Among other duties, the CBED Advisory Council makes recommendations to the department regarding the appropriateness of proposed activity or enterprise, and the department then has the final authority to approve or disapprove loan and grant applications for assistance.

Teena Rasmussen served as the Director of the Office of Economic Development for the County of Maui for eight years. During her tenure, she oversaw an \$80 million portfolio of

economic development grants, accomplished projects in energy, film, agriculture, tourism, workforce development, and business development.

Under her leadership, the Made in Maui County Festival, the Maui Energy Conference, the Hawaii Small Business Conference, and the Molokai Business Conference were founded. Teena successfully led the County of Maui in participating in international events such as the Goyang International Horticulture Show in Goyang, South Korea, the Philadelphia Flower Show in Philadelphia, PA, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Conference in Honolulu in 2011.

During her 40+ years as a resident of Maui, Teena has generously given her time to nonprofits and education-based institutions, as well as dedicated a great deal of her expertise to business and industry advocacy.

Teena served on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents for four years in which she chaired the Community College Committee and was the UH representative to the national American Association of Community College Trustees from 2010-2012.

Teena has been a long-time member of the Maui County Farm Bureau, the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council, and the Hawaii Floral and Nursery Association, and was inducted into the American Academy of Floriculture (AAF) for Lifetime Achievement in 2008.

Teena served on the Small Business Administration Advisory Council for 10 years, the Governor's Small Business Advisory Council for 3 years, was Vice-Chair of the Maui County Salary Commission, and served as the Mayor's representative on the Maui Economic Development Board for 8 years.

Ms. Rasmussen's depth of understanding about all sectors of industry in Hawaii's economy has been achieved through decades of interaction through her public and private sector experiences and collaboration with a network of community partners engaged in the work of economic development and advocacy.

We humbly ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of **Ms. Teena Rasmussen** to a 4-year term with the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council to expire 06-30-2027.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**GM-643**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 5:13:30 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Unemori Hampe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members,

I respectfully submit my strong support for Teena Rasmussen's confirmation to another term on the Community Based Economic Development Advisory Council through June 30, 2027. She has been my business partner at Skog Rasmussen LLC since 2019. I also worked with her on grants prior to that, during her eight-year tenure as the Director of the Office of Economic Development for the County of Maui. While at the County, she oversaw an \$80 million portfolio of economic development grants, accomplished projects in energy, film, agriculture, tourism, workforce development, and business development.

Under her leadership, the Made in Maui County Festival, the Maui Energy Conference, the Hawaii Small Business Conference and the Molokai Business Conference were founded.

Teena and her husband founded and operated a diversified agriculture company, Paradise Flower Farms, Inc., on the island of Maui. Over its 35-year history, the company grew to become the largest lei flower farm in Hawaii, spanning 50 acres and employing 33 people. It serviced the Hawaii market and shipped fresh flower lei throughout the mainland US and Canada. She and her husband sold the business in 2015.

Teena also served on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents for four years in which she chaired the Community College Committee and was the UH representative to the national American Association of Community College Trustees from 2010-2012.

She has served as a member of the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the State of Hawai'i for five years and as its chair from 2005-2006. She was appointed twice by the federal Secretary of Agriculture to the Farm Service Agency State Committee most recently serving as its chair.

Her depth of understanding about all sectors of industry in Hawai'i's economy was achieved through decades of interaction through her public and private sector experiences and with the network of community partners engaged in the work of economic development and advocacy. For these reasons and more, she would benefit the state by serving another term on the CBED Advisory Council.

**GM-643**

Submitted on: 4/13/2023 7:40:16 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I strongly support Teena Rasmussen's consideration and confirmation for membership on the Community Based Economic Development Advisory Council. I have worked with Ms. Rasmussen for over ten years in her various capacities including in her role as the Director of the Maui Office of Economic Development and as President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. She is a pleasure to work with, not only because of her intelligence, her work ethic, her experience in and dedication to the community, and her conscientiousness, but because she retains a pleasant demeanor and sense of humor even while dealing with complicated and difficult issues.

I have no doubt that Ms. Rasmussen will be a valuable member of the Council.

**GM-643**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 3:57:26 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO !!