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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
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Statement of
BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
10:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SB725 SD1, RELATING TO TELEWORKING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the members of the committee.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) is in **support** of SB725 SD1.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require the Department of Human Resources Development to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the telework policies of the executive branch; and (2) appropriate funds.

DHRD understands the importance of having measures and metrics in place to help assess the effectiveness of the newly agreed upon Executive Branch Telework Program Guidelines and would require the proposed 1.0 FTE and funds to ensure that this annual report could be submitted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



TIME/DATE: 10:00 a.m., February 28, 2023
PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
COMMITTEE: Senate Ways and Means
BILL: SB 725, SD1, Relating to Teleworking
POSITION: Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee!

My name is Christine Maii Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a nonprofit organization that advocates for a more accessible and responsive state government that leverages technology to help citizens, communities, and businesses throughout Hawai'i thrive. In collaboration with state government partners, we strive to keep modernization a top priority. We are writing in **support** of SB 725, SD1, relating to teleworking. This measure requires the Department of Human Resources Development to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the telework policies of the executive branch and appropriates funds for it to do so.

Successfully delivering government services to Hawai'i residents requires investments in people, processes, and technology. Not only can governmental agencies save money on office space, energy use, and related purchases by having employees telework, we believe that teleworking is a necessary adaptation that can effectively promote excellent work and attract top talent to government positions. Facilitating telework for some positions and at least some of the time would benefit government employees by reducing the need for commuting, saving time and reducing traffic. Among the well documented benefits for employees are the savings on fuel, vehicle maintenance and parking costs. There are also societal benefits to reducing commutes, including a reduction in the consumption of petroleum products, reduced risk of traffic accidents, and increased time that people can spend with families. We support government implementation of telework strategies.

Please continue to call upon Transform Hawai'i Government as a resource on government modernization. Through research, data, and in-depth policy recommendations, and resources we wish to support your efforts to make Hawai'i a better place and look forward to working closely with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Sakuda', is written over a light blue circular background.

Christine Sakuda
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