

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 879 SD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The **DLIR supports the intent** of this measure and provides comments. SB879 SD1 proposes to appropriate an undetermined amount out of the general funds account for the fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to support the administration of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program.

II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

The department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's Executive Budget request. Should the Legislature consider supplementing federal funds with general funds to support the administration of the UI program, the DLIR respectfully requests an appropriation amount of \$1,900,000 to support fifteen (15) vacant federally unfunded positions that will be used to ensure service levels to the community remain constant while moving forward with the UI modernization initiative.