



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HR 80
**SUPPORTING A CLOSER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
TAIWAN IN VALUES AND COMMON GOALS, THE RELATIONSHIPS AND
EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND TAIWAN, TAIWAN'S
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, AND THE SIGNING OF A UNITED STATES-
TAIWAN BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT.**

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HR 80 which advocates for a closer partnership between the United States and Taiwan in values and common goals. This bill highlights the importance of fostering positive relationships and exchanges between the State of Hawai'i and Taiwan, as well as increasing Taiwan's international participation and the possibility of signing a United States-Taiwan bilateral trade agreement.

DBEDT and its Business Development and Support Division (DBEDT/BDSD) believe Taiwan is a valuable economic and strategic partner for Hawai'i, and the potential benefits of strengthening our ties with Taiwan are numerous. Taiwan is already a key trading partner for our state, and a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan could open new opportunities for economic growth and job creation in Hawai'i.

Additionally, the cultural and educational exchanges between Hawai'i and Taiwan are invaluable in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. By deepening our relationship with Taiwan, we can enhance opportunities for collaboration in various fields, such as tourism, education, technology, and environmental protection.

Through the State of Hawai'i Office in Taipei, DBEDT/BDSO has been working with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Honolulu to promote economic growth, enhance cultural exchanges, and advance shared values and goals that benefit both Hawai'i and Taiwan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.