SB 718 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 718 SD2 HD1 appropriating funds to the Hawai‘i Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) for the HI Growth Initiative. This funding is necessary to continue the HI Growth Initiative, which has helped to catalyze an ecosystem that provides the building blocks for high-growth businesses to grow and scale in Hawai‘i. HI Growth is supporting the Research and Innovation Initiative at the University of Hawai‘i (UH), which is an important initiative to significantly increase UH’s economic contribution to the state.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.