

Members of the Committees:

My name is [First Name] and I'm a business owner... [Add personalization here e.g. type of business, how long you've been in business, how many employees, etc.]

Thank you for scheduling this joint hearing. The political will to fast-track this bill is greatly appreciated so that employers like myself are spared Schedule H.

All things considered, I support HB1278 which holds the tax schedule at Schedule D for 2021 *and* 2022 and throws out COVID-19 (2020) utilization from determining rates. It is imperative that this bill is ratified as quickly as possible in order to give businesses the best shot to recover. The alternative poses devastating short-term and long-term consequences for businesses and the health of our economy.

In addition to schedule relief, I urge you to consider how the state will repay its federal loan. By some accounts, Hawaii could owe the federal government \$1.2 billion dollars by the end of 2021 and currently there isn't enough discussion about how this will be addressed or who will be responsible for repayment. It must be said outright: Relying on Hawaii's employers simply cannot be the answer. There were other options available and employers never asked the government to take out a huge Title XII loan.

As you consider your decisions today, I respectfully ask that you pass HB1278, lowering the rate schedule to Schedule D for 2021 and 2022. This gives businesses like mine the *best* chance possible to recover and thus stimulates the economy. Meanwhile, I urge you to look for *other ways* to finance the state's debt, whether it's moving debt from the DLIR to the General Fund, or exploring issuing state bonds which allow the state to borrow money on its own terms at a lesser impact to our economy. If we do not do so, what's the risk? More business closures, more brain drain and more instability for Hawaii's people.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

[YOUR NAME]