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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Friday, April 17, 2009
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 568

WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, DAVID Y. IGE, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ronald Boyer, and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 568, regarding the appointment of Niraj Suresh Desai, M.D. to the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). The Department supports Dr. Desai's appointment and respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Board.

I am familiar with Dr. Desai and his candidacy for appointment to the Board in that I have spoken with him about the Board and his interest in serving there. Based on my discussion with Dr. Desai, I believe that he possesses the qualifications,

background, and experience to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Board.

Currently in solo nephrology practice at Kidney Care of Hawaii, LLC, in Lihue, Dr. Desai has been practicing medicine since 1992, the past nine years on Kauai. Dr. Desai earned both his B.S.E. in chemical engineering and later his medical degree from the University of Michigan. As an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Chicago, Dr. Desai worked to ensure that future physicians are well trained and competent.

Additionally, Dr. Desai understands that the principal purpose of the Board is to protect the consumer. He appreciates the need for oversight over the profession in order to protect the public from dangerous practitioners and will work hard to ensure that only highly qualified individuals receive licenses from the Board.

I am confident that if given the opportunity, Dr. Desai will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the Board. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Dr. Desai's appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Dr. Desai's behalf.