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October 26, 2022

State of Hawaii, Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, HI 96809
Suzanne Case, Chairperson

Testimony re: Agenda Item M.5, Issuance of a Restaurant and Lounge Concession Agreement by Request for Proposals to Volume Services, Inc. dba Sodexo Live! at Hilo International Airport and Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keahole, Tax Map Key: (Hilo): (3) 3-2-1-012: Portion of 009, and (Kona), (3) 7-3-043: Portion of 003.

Chair Case and Members of the Board:

UNITE HERE Local 5 is a labor union representing hotel, health care and food service workers across the state, including airport concessions workers at the Honolulu, Kahului and Lihue Airports. We have concerns about Sodexo that the Board should take into account before approving any further contracts at Hilo and Kona airports.

Over the past several weeks, Sodexo workers in airports around the country have taken actions demanding fair treatment. Sodexo workers picketed at Newark airport in New Jersey, and handed out leaflets to customers at Dulles and Boston airports.

According to Lamar Roper, a dishwasher at the Newark Lufthansa lounge operated by Sodexo, "I've been working for Sodexo in the Lufthansa lounge for a year. When flights are delayed it gathers up more people in the lounge for hours. One time I didn't clock out until damn near 1 AM. I take the bus and some buses stop after midnight; how are we supposed to get home? I don't have enough money to Uber. All the pain and pressure we go through – we deserve more."

The BLNR should ensure workers are being fairly treated in Hilo and Kona airport concessions operations.

Mahalo,

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