

MAR 10 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO PROPERLY FUND THE SMALL BUSINESS
REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S SMALL
BUSINESSES.

1 WHEREAS, the Small Business Regulatory Review Board ("the
2 Board") acts as the watchdog for small businesses within state
3 government; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Board's role is to review state administrative
6 rules or county ordinances that may adversely affect small
7 businesses and recommend to the Legislature or the county
8 council or mayor, as the case may be, that the state or county
9 agencies should review and modify overly burdensome rules or
10 ordinances and evaluate state or county agencies' responsiveness
11 to small business; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Board is dedicated to the success of the
14 State's small businesses, as well as improving relationships
15 with state and county departments, and has been an instrumental
16 voice within the small business community; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Board has done an effective and efficient job
19 for the State in generating revenue, advertising, and cutting
20 regulatory red tape for small businesses; and
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22 WHEREAS, many small business owners volunteer their time
23 and are dependent upon the Board and the Department of Business,
24 Economic Development, and Tourism's staff for support and
25 assistance with fulfilling their responsibilities; and
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27 WHEREAS, in order to continue to support Hawaii's many
28 small businesses, the Board needs to have a stable home, staff,
29 and budget for its efforts, which are vital for the small
30 business community; and



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2 WHEREAS, the position of Small Business Advocate was a
3 crucial liaison between the Board and its many members; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Board is currently housed within the
6 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and
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8 WHEREAS, the shortage of staffing in the Department of
9 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and budget cuts have
10 resulted in the elimination of the full-time Small Business
11 Advocate; and
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13 WHEREAS, the duties of the Small Business Advocate have
14 since been assumed by an already lean staff in an attempt to
15 continue the work of the Board in assisting Hawaii's small
16 business community; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,
19 and Tourism's reductions of the Board's staffing and resources
20 and its threatened reductions in funding the relatively small
21 costs of transportation to meetings and the printing and
22 distribution of mandated reports severely undermine the Board's
23 mission to assist Hawaii small business owners in doing business
24 in the State; and
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26 WHEREAS, shifting resources away from the Board and
27 elimination of the Small Business Advocate position have
28 crippled the only viable mechanism to assist Hawaii's small
29 business community; and
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31 WHEREAS, Governor Linda Lingle has proclaimed that our
32 State is "open for business"; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
37 strongly urges the Governor to reconsider her position on
38 whether the Small Business Regulatory Review Board is or is not
39 a core function of the Department of Business, Economic
40 Development, and Tourism and to provide an adequate level of
41 funding sufficient to allow the Board to operate, function, and
42 address the needs of Hawaii's small businesses; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
3 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the
4 Chairperson of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.
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OFFERED BY:

Randy H. Paul

