

HCR 296

EDT



The Hawaii Business League

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April 16, 2010

LATE

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons
President

Subject: HCR 296 – 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.

Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Hawaii Business League, a small business service organization and we support this resolution. More to the point however, we support any assistance in the continuing functioning of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

We know that the Board has been an important part of the small business community and although there have been periodic times where it has been hamstrung, other times where it has not had sufficient support and other times, where it has totally fulfilled its purposes and its goals, it nevertheless, has been rather mixed. It is our hope that this legislature and the Governor will find a way to properly fund the Review Board, staff it and, allow it to operate the way that it was envisioned to protect Hawaii's small business community.

We knew we were dreaming when we invented the position of the Small Business Advocate and, of course, we were, because it has never been funded. However, the Board itself has been operating and it accomplished a great deal on behalf of the small business community. We hope that it is allowed to continue and that can only happen if this Board is funded and staffed.

Based on the above, we endorse this resolution, we endorse the Review Board and, we endorse any effort to allow it to flourish.

Thank you.



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**TESTIMONY
before the**

**SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**April 16, 2010
1:30 PM
Room 423**

HCR 296

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

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), on behalf of our farm and ranch families, many of whom are small businesses, **strongly supports** HCR 296.

Farm Bureau members are among those who have benefited from the work of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board so we know first-hand the enormity of its task and how valuable it is to the small business community. For the relatively minimal cost to staff and support this Board, the return is immeasurable. This is one area where a cost/benefit analysis would show a great benefit to the State.

The volunteer Board members conscientiously review complex and confusing regulatory proposals that can shut down small businesses, including farms, and in several cases have helped agriculture obtain reasonable modifications to those proposals. We respectfully request that you pass this resolution to urge the Governor to adequately fund and staff the Board so that it can more effectively do its job.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Hawaii's farm and ranch families who would like to continue to produce food and agricultural products to supply the needs of the islands.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and
Technology**

Friday, April 16, 2010

1:30 p.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 423

LATE

**RE: HCR 296 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 BUSINESS**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). I am here to state The Chamber's support of HCR 296.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

In Hawaii, small businesses are the engine for Hawaii's economy through the creation of jobs which provide innovative products and services, and the generation of economic activity. They reflect all industries and a wide range of employment. The Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRB) and Small Business Advocate, therefore, play a crucial role in monitoring rules that could potentially impact small businesses in Hawaii and is an instrumental voice within the small business community.

While the Chamber understands our government's constitutional mandate to balance the budget, the Chamber is concerned about the level of funding sufficient to allow the SBRB to operate as well as the need for a full-time Small Business Advocate.

Assistance and facilitation from SBRB and a full-time Advocate are urgently needed so small businesses can better compete in today's increasingly competitive and modernized economy. By providing adequate funding to SBRB, potential opportunities could arise that will stimulate growth, especially at a time when Hawaii needs it most.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 296.