

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS
Thursday, March 29, 2012
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

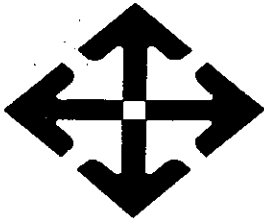
In consideration of
HCR 119
**URGING THE GOVERNOR TO PROPERLY SUPPORT THE SMALL BUSINESS
REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM IN ASSISTING HAWAII'S SMALL
BUSINESSES.**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Members of the House Committee on
Economic, Revitalization & Business.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
supports the intent of HCR 119, which urges the Governor to properly support the Small
Business Regulatory Review Board of the Department of Business, Economic
Development, and Tourism in assisting Hawaii's small businesses.

As you know, funding to DBEDT since 2008 has been reduced. Due to these
budget cuts which has affected all core divisions of the Department, many services and
programs have been eliminated. The Department, however, has maintained
legislatively mandated programs such as the SBRRB, and has provided support to the
Board within its limited human and financial resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Hawaii Business League

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March 29, 2012

Testimony To: House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons
President

Subject: HCR 119 - URGING THE GOVERNOR TO PROPERLY SUPPORT THE SMALL
BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM IN ASSISTING
HAWAII'S SMALL BUSINESSES.

Chair McKelvey 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.

Small business has been the "economic driver" for not only the nation but also Hawaii. It is also typical that most small businesses list as their number one complaint about operating in Hawaii, the overly cumbersome regulations, the duplications of rules and regulations and the burdensome cost and disproportionate impact that rules and regulations have on them as small businesses.

The Small Business Regulatory Review Board was heralded nationwide when it was first established and in its limited life has performed a variety of services for small business by reducing regulations or reducing their impact. Over the last few years the lack of attention to the Board has been reflected in its miniscule budget and we believe that the Small Business Regulatory Review Board can provide a very valuable service for government agencies in providing them with prior notice before too many hours and dollars have gone into the development of regulations as to the impact their regulations will have on small business.

We think this Resolution is important inasmuch as it urges the Governor to recognize the important role small business plays but we also note that it is in the hands of the legislature to properly fund it via the State budget and therefore, we would request that both the Governor and the legislature provide the opportunity for the Small Business Regulatory Review Board to "re-emerge" as an agency that can assist in providing for meaningful and necessary regulation of small businesses.

Based on the above, we highly recommend passage of this Resolution and would urge the Committee to impress upon the House Committee on Finance the importance of properly funding the Review Board as well.

Thank you.



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March 29, 2012
8:30 am
Room 312

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 119

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

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee,

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Farm Bureau strongly supports the mission and work of the SBRRB. Our farmer and rancher members have benefited from the Board's conscientious review of extremely complicated proposed rules, some of which, if promulgated, would have negatively impacted food production in Hawaii.

We are concerned that because of limited resources and minimal staff support within DBEDT, the Board, which consists of volunteer members, may be unable to continue to fulfill its mission.

Thank you for your support of agriculture in Hawaii through your support of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. Please call Janet Ashman at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions.