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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that being designated as  
2 an economic development district by the United States Economic  
3 Development Administration offers opportunities to advance  
4 coordinated and locally developed goals that leverage and build  
5 upon interrelated community assets, such as workforce,  
6 infrastructure, and housing. An economic development district  
7 advances a long-term established relationship with the United  
8 States Economic Development Administration that includes annual  
9 federal funding to support the development and implementation of  
10 the Hawaii comprehensive economic development strategy. The  
11 United States Economic Development Administration is much more  
12 likely to invest federal funds in a designated economic  
13 development district than in an area that is not covered by an  
14 economic development district.

15           The legislature further finds that, pursuant to Title 13  
16 Code of Federal Regulations section 304.1, an economic



1 development district designation by the United States Economic  
2 Development Administration requires:

3 (1) A comprehensive economic development strategy that has  
4 been approved by the Assistant Secretary for Economic  
5 Development of the United States Department of  
6 Commerce and includes a specific program for intra-  
7 district cooperation, self-help, and public  
8 investment;

9 (2) Commitments from a majority of counties within the  
10 proposed district;

11 (3) A district organization, which may be organized under  
12 state law as a multi-jurisdictional area-wide planning  
13 organization; and

14 (4) That the district organization meet requirements  
15 established in Title 13 Code of Federal Regulations  
16 section 304.2, including that the organization's  
17 governing body be broadly representative of the  
18 principal economic interests of the region by  
19 involving the private sector, public officials,  
20 community leaders, representatives of workforce



1 development boards, institutions of higher learning,  
2 minority and labor groups, and private citizens.

3 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that Hawaii is  
4 eligible for the substantial benefits of a United States  
5 Economic Development Administration-designated economic  
6 development district by:

7 (1) Establishing the Hawaii economic development district  
8 planning organization and governing board to be  
9 administratively attached to the office of planning  
10 and sustainable development; and

11 (2) Creating four full-time equivalent positions and  
12 appropriating funds to support the operations of the  
13 Hawaii economic development district planning  
14 organization.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
17 designated and to read as follows:

18 "§226- Hawaii economic development district planning  
19 organization. (a) There is established the Hawaii economic  
20 development district planning organization, which shall be the  
21 district organization for purposes of implementing the United



1 States Economic Development Administration-approved  
2 comprehensive economic development strategy. The Hawaii  
3 economic development district planning organization shall be  
4 placed within the department of business, economic development,  
5 and tourism and attached to the office of planning and  
6 sustainable development for administrative purposes.

7 (b) The Hawaii economic development district planning  
8 organization shall:

- 9 (1) Develop, manage, and support effective multi-level  
10 partnerships to promote intra-district cooperation,  
11 self-help, and public investment to restore and  
12 sustain economic resilience and prosperity;
- 13 (2) Assist organizations within the economic development  
14 district with applications for funding;
- 15 (3) Implement the United States Economic Development  
16 Administration-approved comprehensive economic  
17 development strategy; and
- 18 (4) Report to the governor and legislature regarding any  
19 annual updates to the comprehensive economic  
20 development strategy.



1        (c) The Hawaii economic development district planning  
2 organization shall be headed by a board that shall comprise the  
3 following fifteen members:

4        (1) The director of the office of planning and sustainable  
5 development or the director's designee, who shall  
6 serve as chair;

7        (2) The mayor of each county or the respective mayor's  
8 designee;

9        (3) The executive director of each county economic  
10 development board or the respective executive  
11 director's designee;

12        (4) A representative of each county workforce development  
13 board, who shall be designated by the chair of the  
14 respective board;

15        (5) The president of the university of Hawaii or the  
16 president's designee; and

17        (6) A representative of a labor organization who shall be  
18 appointed by the governor.

19        (d) The nongovernmental members of the Hawaii economic  
20 development district planning organization board shall serve for



1 no more than two consecutive four-year terms. Members shall not  
2 be subject to section 26-34(a).

3 (e) Members of the Hawaii economic development district  
4 planning organization board shall serve without compensation but  
5 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including reasonable travel  
6 expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

7 (f) The Hawaii economic development district planning  
8 organization board shall hold public meetings at least twice a  
9 year. The meetings shall be subject to chapter 92."

10 SECTION 3. There are established four full-time equivalent  
11 (4.0 FTE) temporary economic development planning analyst  
12 positions to support the Hawaii economic development district  
13 planning organization; provided that the positions shall be  
14 exempt from chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
15 provided further that the positions shall be funded using  
16 general funds.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2024-2025 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the  
2 hiring of necessary staff.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
5 of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Hawaii Economic Development District Planning Organization; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Economic Development District Planning Organization. Designates the Hawaii Economic Development District Planning Organization as the district organization for purposes of implementing the United States Economic Development Administration-approved comprehensive economic development strategy. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

