

## SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

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Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)  
No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel Street, Fifth Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, HI 96804  
Email: [dbedt.sbrb.info@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.sbrb.info@hawaii.gov)  
Website: [sbrb.hawaii.gov](http://sbrb.hawaii.gov)

Tel: 808 798-0737

**Josh Green, M.D.**  
*Governor*

**Sylvia Luke**  
*Lt. Governor*

**James Kunane Tokioka**  
*DBEDT Director*

**Dane K. Wicker**  
*DBEDT Deputy Director*

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Mark Ritchie for  
Director, DBEDT  
*Voting Ex Officio*

### TESTIMONY

**TO:** Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Mary Albitz, Chair, Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB) *Mary Albitz*

**DATE:** April 2, 2024 – Room 308 & Videoconference at 2:30 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** Support – Senate Bill 2974 SD2, HD1 – Relating to Economic Development

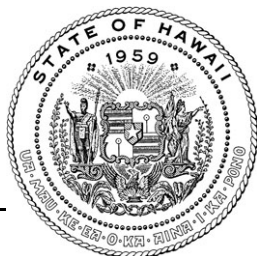
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On behalf of the SBRRB, I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2974 SD2 HD1, Relating to Economic Development.

Specifically, Senate Bill 2974 SD2 HD1 establishes a Business Revitalization Task Force within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including the mitigation of regulatory and tax burdens, and requires a report to the Legislature. The task force shall consist of, among others, a member of the small business regulatory review board.

I am proud of the success and accomplishments this hardworking group of gratis members has had over the past 25+ years. This measure will ensure the stability of the SBRRB by including one of its members to partake in creating a report to the legislature consisting of findings and recommendations that encompasses the mitigation of regulatory and tax burdens of Hawaii's businesses.

Thank you for hearing our comments and the SBRRB's support of Senate Bill 2974 SD2 HD1.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024  
2:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
**SB2974, SD2, HD1**  
**RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) appreciates the intent and has comments on SB2974, SD2, HD1 which establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including mitigation of regulatory and tax burdens. Hawaii continues to be ranked low in terms of business opportunities and economic competitiveness by many organizations. The low rankings largely reflect the uniqueness of Hawaii's geographic location and its economic structure. For example, Hawaii is the only state geographically isolated from the continent and labor mobility is limited. Hawaii is a smaller market for new products, has a high cost of living, and its economy relies heavily on a few industries.

Economic development is a complex process. Hawaii needs to balance economic growth with environmental concerns, social equity, and government finances. For further economic development, the state needs an adequate labor force, capital investment, and innovation in the way goods and services are produced.

Establishing a task force is an important means of collecting ideas from stakeholders and addressing ways to address the challenges the state faces. Funding in the amount of \$200,000 for one FTE or hiring a consulting firm would be needed to carry out the purpose of this bill. The HD1 indicates that there will be reimbursement for travel expenses but does not indicate who is going to pay for the reimbursement.

DBEDT Testimony  
SB2974, SD2, HD1  
April 2, 2024  
Page 2 of 2

Section (h) says “Staff to assist the task force in performing its duties shall be assigned by the department of business, economic development, and tourism or the president of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, and governor.” This is very vague. Specifics are needed such as how many staff total, and how many DBEDT, Senate, House, and Governor each can assign.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



*Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Gemma G. Weinstein, President*

*Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President*

March 15, 2024

Committee On Finance  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

### **Testimony in Opposition to SB2974**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the health care, hotel, and food service industries across Hawaii. **We are in opposition to SB2974**, which would establish a business-dominated task force to determine which corporate taxes and regulations they would like to cut. If the goal is to make small businesses more viable, then we should be addressing the biggest problems they face – the increasing monopolization of each industry by large corporations. As we see in just about every industry throughout the country, consolidation has put small proprietors out of business, impoverished them, or forced them to operate as partners of large corporations, under the restrictions and conditions demanded by those corporations.

A move toward deregulation and reducing corporate taxes will likely benefit large corporations much more than small businesses, making small businesses even less competitive. Meanwhile, taxpayers will end up subsidizing the system that leads to immense corporate profits and trillions of dollars of untaxed wealth. Our community, as workers and as consumers, pays a price for deregulation. That price is paid through workplace injury, chronic illness, defective products, environmental contamination, skyrocketing prices, the destruction of communities, decaying infrastructure, and so on. Deregulation in recent years has led to everything from house fires, to poisoning children, to consumer product injuries, to chemical spills, industrial accidents, plane crashes, and on and on. What it has not led to is a better environment for small businesses.

**Please reject SB2974.**

Thank you for your consideration.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
APRIL 2, 2024**

**Re: SB 2974 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Good afternoon, Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB 2974 SD2 HD1. This measure establishes a Business Revitalization Task Force within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including the mitigation of regulatory and tax burdens; requires a report to the Legislature; and is effective 7/1/3000.

We are often asked why this or that mainland store does not come to Hawaii or why there are not more locally owned stores around. There are assorted reasons why, however, the common thread is that Hawaii has maintained a reputation of having a lot of government red tape and excessive costs to do business in the state. There are many opportunities to be had if there are changes made.

In an article published in July 2023, CNBC rated Americans Top States to Do Business. Of the 50 states, Hawaii was ranked #47 (<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/07/11/top-states-for-business-hawaii.html>) This is not the only survey that has rated Hawaii on the bottom. We need to change this so that Hawaii is a place where people want to open their business and current businesses, especially those that are locally owned are able to keep their doors open and their employees employed.

To address Hawaii's challenges in attracting and retaining businesses, establishing a task force focused on improving the business environment could indeed be a proactive step. We feel that this type of task force can assess the current state of the business and develop a clear strategic direction to navigate challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and achieve long-term goals. This task force can also identify potential risks and challenges businesses are facing, address them with workable solutions to minimize negative impacts on operations and financial performance. We want to encourage and entice more new businesses to come to Hawaii, not only those that provide products and goods, but also services. We also want to see more businesses succeeding and not going bankrupt and closing.

We ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

#### **Executive Officers**

**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*  
**Kit Okimoto**, Okimoto Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *Executive Director*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 2, 2024  
TIME: 2:30pm  
PLACE: Room 308

RE: SB2974 SD2 HD1 Relating to Economic Development

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure. As this measure notes, Hawaii's high tax rate and challenging regulatory burden has stifled new business formation in our state. These factors have also made it more challenging for existing businesses to continue operations locally.

For 30 years HFIA has proudly produce the Made in Hawaii Festival. Our local small businesses have proven that they have tremendous potential when given the opportunity to thrive. We believe our State should be fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic diversification.

Establishing a Businesses Revitalization Task Force is an opportunity for the State to find the best ways to support our local businesses, and remove unnecessary challenges. This is an investment in local businesses, and the economic future of our State. We encourage the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# Island Plastic Bags

TO: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita; Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa; and Committee

FROM: Adrian Hong, President of Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

RE: SB 2974 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support SB 2974 SD2 HD1. My name is Adrian Hong and I am the president of Island Plastic Bags Inc. (IPB), a second-generation, family business in Halawa Valley that manufactures plastic trash liners and sells compostable cutlery, paper bags, and Colgate-Palmolive products. IPB supports this bill as action is desperately needed to improve the business climate in Hawaii.

Overregulation, taxes, and delays in permitting and licensing severely hamper business formation and growth in Hawaii. Hawaii's economy could be a more diverse and dynamic place if we did not put so many restrictions on professions and businesses. A less burdened economy could create more opportunities for our children to remain here in Hawaii and have successful and rewarding careers. A task force addressing these issues is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2974 SD2 HD1. Should you have any questions or comments about my testimony you can contact me by email at [ahong@islandplasticbags.com](mailto:ahong@islandplasticbags.com) or by phone at 808-484-4046.

Sincerely,

Adrian K. Hong, CPA

President

Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

[www.islandplasticbags.com](http://www.islandplasticbags.com)

Email: [ahong@islandplasticbags.com](mailto:ahong@islandplasticbags.com) | Phone: 808-484-4046 | Fax: 808-488-8505



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

## Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

Before the House Committees on  
FINANCE

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**  
**2:30 PM State Capitol Room 308**  
In consideration of  
**Senate Bill 2974 SD2 HD1**  
**Business Revitalization Task Force**

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce (HICC) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2974 SD2 HD1 relating to economic development.

HICC has been a part of our island's business community for over 125 years and represents over 300 member businesses, professionals and non-profit organizations from east Hawai'i Island and beyond.

We support the establishment of a Business Revitalization Task Force whose purpose will be to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate and report its findings to the State Legislature.

The Business Revitalization Task Force will include members from our local business community who will come together to identify the barriers encountered by businesses while operating in Hawai'i and provide input to our state leaders. Allowing focused communication between our business leaders and government will enable those involved to have a better understanding of the issues which will lead to achievable policy that will benefit our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of this measure.





# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 2:30PM**

**Conference Room 308 & Video Conference**

**RE: SB2974 SD2 HD1 Relating to Economic Development**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports SB2974 SD2 HD1**, which establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens, and requires a report to the legislature.

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to support this bill and believes this is a task force is critical to support the future economic resilience and growth of our local business community. This assertion is well founded and notably based on the following:

**Hawaii consistently ranks as one of the worst states to do business.**

- [1st most restrictive land use regulations in the nation](#), University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization
- [5th year in a row more people moved out of Hawaii than moved into the state](#), 2020 U.S. Census
- [43rd Ranking, State Business Tax Climate Index](#), U.S. Tax Foundation
- [47th Ranking, Top states for business](#), CNBC
- [48th Ranking, Most policy measures and costs impacting entrepreneurship & small business growth](#), SBE Council

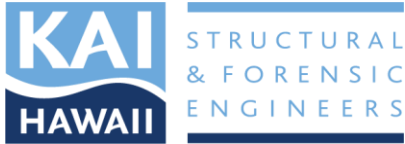
The Chamber completed its 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii Initiative earlier this year. The vision was to create a data-based action plan for Business to lead and shape Hawaii's economic future as a top place to do business. We connected with stakeholders from business, government & community to shape goals and priorities and develop a strategy that presents achievable policy reforms and metrics to increase Hawaii's economic competitiveness.

Through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and extensive research it was made clear that overregulation at every level of government is hindering business growth and preventing new businesses and entrepreneurs from investing in Hawaii. We believe this task force is a critical method for state government leaders and the business community to come together to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawaii.

The Chamber supports this measure and appreciates the HD1 amendments, including comprisal of a more inclusive membership and specification of certain requirements. From the private sector standpoint, private sector entities, such as the Chamber, can provide the resources to ensure the charge of the task force is met in good order.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Ken Hayashida, P.E. | President

Ryan Tanaka | Chief Executive Officer

Michael Hunnemann, P.E. | Vice President

April 2, 2024  
2:30 pm  
Room 308

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2974 SD2 HD1- Business Revitalization Task Force

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,  
I am a local business manager at KAI Hawaii, Inc. and I strongly support SB2974 SD2 HD1 relating to economic development.

The purpose of this measure is to formalize the establishment of a Business Revitalization Task Force to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate while requiring a legislative report on its findings.

This Task Force would include members selected from the local business community to provide input and representation. This is very important, as there must be proper representation from the business community in order to properly identify the barriers they face. More communication between stakeholders from business, government, and the community is paramount in order to identify the right problems that will lead to achievable policy that will benefit us all.

Please also consider that the Business Revitalization Task Force can be accomplished without funding.

I believe this task force is a critical method for state leaders and the business community to come together to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawaii. This bill will efficiently escalate the urgency and importance of improving our business climate.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ken Hayashida, President  
Email: ken@kaihawaii.com

Written Statement of

**Jeannine Souki, Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

April 2, 2024, 2:30 PM -- AGENDA #3  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT WITH REQUESTED AMENDMENT FOR:  
S.B. 2974, S.D.2, H.D.1 – RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

To: Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Finance

**Re: Testimony providing support requested amendment for SB 2974, SD2, HD, 1**

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit support for SB 2974, SD2, HD1 which would establish a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai‘i’s economic competitiveness and business climate.

**Hawaiian Telcom supports this initiative and respectfully requests an amendment to include a representative of the broadband/telecommunications services industry.** Our understanding is that the task force will endeavor to take a deeper dive into unraveling and mitigating regulatory and tax burdens facing Hawai‘i businesses and establishing incentives for businesses in our state to thrive.

**Therefore, we are requesting the following amendment to Section 2 (c) to include the following language underscored to this measure:**

(c) The chair of the house of representatives  
standing committee with primary jurisdiction over

economic development and the chair of the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over economic development shall each invite the following persons to join the task force:

- (1) One representative of the construction industry;
- (2) One representative of the agriculture industry;
- (3) One representative of the visitor industry;
- (4) One representative of the food industry;
- (5) One representative of the retail industry;
- (6) One representative of the high technology industry; ~~and~~
- (7) One representative from the broadband/telecommunications services industry; and
- (8) One representative of the regional and ethnic chambers of commerce.

Hawaiian Telcom, has been instrumental in keeping communities and businesses connected to the world since our company was chartered by King David Kalākaua in 1883, from enabling the first direct link to the continental United States via undersea telegraph cable to installing Hawai‘i’s first fiber-optic cable at Camp Smith, from developing SEA-US, the most technologically advanced trans-Pacific fiber cable, to providing residents new entertainment choice with our Fioptics+ service. While the products, services, and technology have changed dramatically over time, Hawaiian Telcom has been at the forefront of innovation.

Hawaiian Telcom has invested more than \$1 billion over the last ten years to expand and support its fiber optic network and serve its customers. In 2023, Hawaiian Telcom expanded its fiber-optics network to add 65,000 new locations, including the completion of our fiber expansion on Lāna‘i and more than 95% of the island of Moloka‘i as well as parts of Pahoa and Kailua Kona on Hawai‘i Island, Wailuku, Kihei, and Makawao on Maui, and Līhu‘e and Kilauea on Kaua‘i. Our company is on track to build an additional 60,000 locations across the state in 2024.

Hawaiian Telcom feels a great sense of responsibility to Hawai'i, our home. We are committed to extending our fiber broadband network to all homes and businesses in the state within the next four years. But we continuously face stiff winds with the high level of state regulatory requirements, high taxes and no incentives to offset the cost of investing in capital infrastructure.

Hawaiian Telcom supports efforts of the proposed taskforce to reset the business climate, streamline burdensome regulatory requirements and establish incentives that draw investors and businesses to diversify and grow our state's GDP and reestablish our economic competitiveness.

**We appreciate the opportunity to testify on SB 2974, SD2, HD1, and respectfully request your favorable consideration for the requested amendment.**



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April 1, 2024

RE: SB 2974 SD2 HD1: Relating to Economic Development

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance,

Founded in 1968, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. With 470 member businesses and organizations, our mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce **strongly supports** SB 2974 SD2 HD1: Relating to Economic Development.

This bill establishes a business revitalization task force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including mitigating regulatory and tax burdens. It also requires a report to the legislature.

We support initiatives and policies that promote business innovation and economic diversity. Additionally, we encourage entrepreneurial endeavors and small business development. However, high tax burdens and overregulation at every level of government hinder business growth and prevent new businesses and entrepreneurs from investing in Hawai'i.

This business revitalization task force will convene leaders from the state government and the business community to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawai'i. We believe their recommendations will drive change and improve our state's business climate.

**Please vote to pass SB 2974 SD2 HD1: Relating to Economic Development.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wendy J. Laros'.

Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO  
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

April 2, 2024  
2:30pm  
Room 308

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB2974 SD2 HD1- Business Revitalization Task Force**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I am a local business owner at Ho`onui LLC and I strongly support SB2974 SD2 HD1 relating to economic development.

The purpose of this measure is to formalize the establishment of a Business Revitalization Task Force to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate while requiring a legislative report on its findings. I strongly believe this is what is needed to address and improve Hawai`i's anti-business climate, especially for small businesses. According to the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Hawaii Business Profile 2023, 99.2% of Hawai`i businesses are small businesses.

This Task Force would include members selected from the local business community to provide input and representation. This is very important, as there must be proper representation from the business community in order to properly identify the barriers they face. More communication between stakeholders from business, government, and the community is paramount in order to identify the right problems that will lead to achievable policy that will benefit us all.

Please also consider that the Business Revitalization Task Force can be accomplished without funding.

I believe this task force is a critical method for state leaders and the business community to come together to identify the barriers to doing business in Hawaii. This bill will efficiently escalate the urgency and importance of improving our business climate.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Karen Chang Barr, Small and Mobile Food Business Consultant  
karen@hoonui.net  
808-809-4249

April 2, 2024



*Working together for Kapolei*

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday April 2, 2024, 2:30 p.m.  
Conference Rm. 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**RE: SB 2974 SD2, HD1 Relating to Economic Development**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee:

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region which includes Waipahu to Ka'ena Point. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive. We are a member-driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in **strong support of SB 2974 SD2, HD1**. This bill **establishes a business revitalization task force** to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including mitigating regulatory and tax burdens. It also requires a report to the legislature.

In the wake of the pandemic, the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce launched its own business revitalization task force that is transitioning to a member-driven economic council focused on West O'ahu economic priorities. Kapolei leads the state in economic growth and navigating and directing Hawai'i's very weighted business climate is one of our top concerns.

We have the most restrictive land use regulations in the nation. Our small businesses struggle often with very small margins to break a profit due in part to some of the very tax heavy and government regulated fee structures in our state. In some cases, businesses are relocating to other states.

We need to work together to identify the barriers of doing business in Hawai'i and find ways to stimulate and support growth, keeping more jobs and laying the needed improved foundation for our future workforce and entrepreneurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk  
Executive Director



**SB-2974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 9:51:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jackie Keefe | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina.

**I am in support of this bill with reservations.** I am grateful for the idea behind the bill, but I believe it is important to note that *there should be kanaka and kama'aina requirements imposed on the structure of the task force.* We need to ensure that this task force has the interests of local people in mind, not just businesses.

If the bill is written with small businesses in mind, there should be language guaranteeing that small businesses will be well-represented. Seeing as those who run small businesses generally have less free time than those who work for large corporations, there should be guidelines in place to ensure small business-minded people are involved in the task force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

Lahaina, Maui

**SB-2974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:48:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Glen Kagamida       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

IMPROVING THE BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS AND CLIMATE ARE ALWAYS A GOOD IDEAS.

MAHALO!

**SB-2974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:09:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nimr Tamimi         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. In the process, please provide consideration to the neighbor islands, we need help in diversifying our economy.

**SB-2974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:56:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keith Marrack       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Hawaii is one of the most challenging states to do business in with an overabundance of taxes and regulations. This wouldl hopefully help identify areas that the Legislature can help the state to become more competitive.

Aloha,

Keith

**SB-2974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:15:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan S. Hayashi     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

My name is Alan Hayashi and I am testifying in strong support of SB 2974 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Aloha, Alan Hayashi

**SB-2974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:38:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James K. Chan       | Hawaiian Chip Company,<br>LLC | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support Please support SB2974 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo,

Jimmy