



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, March 2, 2023
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SB 1296, SD1
RELATING TO DESIGNATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

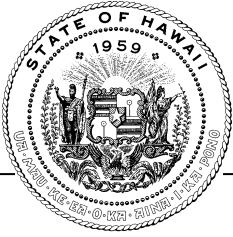
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** SB 1296, SD1. This measure establishes an economic development district planning organization within the DBEDT Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD). This organization will ensure that the state of Hawaii meets the federal statutory requirements for designation by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District (EDD).

Economic Development Districts are designed to coordinate and support economic development planning. Designation as an EDD would allow DBEDT, other government agencies and non-profit organizations to access federal resources only available to formally designated EDDs including annual federal funding sources. EDA federal investments are more likely in areas covered within EDDs than areas located outside such districts.

The economic development district planning organization created by SB 1296, SD1, fulfills the federal economic development district requirements including the creation of a district organization with a board of directors and professional staff positions. This will give Hawai'i the opportunity to apply for designation as an Economic Development District and access the networks and resources only available with such a designation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 1296, SD 1
RELATING TO DESIGNATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** SB 1296, SD 1. This measure establishes and designates OPSD to organize an economic development district planning organization to ensure the state is eligible to be designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Economic Development Districts are multi-county entities tasked to help lead and coordinate locally developed and regionally driven economic development. EDDs are crafted to develop long-term relationships with the EDA including annual federal funding to support the development and implementation of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. SB 1296, SD 1 is constructed to meet the federal 13 CFR § 304.1 requirements for EDD formation including the creation of a district organization and support staff positions.

OPSD finds that the EDA investment of federal funds is more likely within designated Economic Development District areas on a per capita basis than within areas not covered by an EDD. SB 1296, SD 1 supports efforts to receive an EDA designation and funding as an EDD and provides Hawai'i an opportunity to foster a stronger relationship with the EDA and the federal government, in turn creating the opportunity for more regular access to EDA federal funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 1:40:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqui Hoover	Testifying for Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Jacqui Hoover, Executive Director and COO for the Hawai`i Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) which is a private, non-profit, member-based 501(c)3 corporation registered in the State of Hawai`i since 1984 committed to providing and promoting private sector support and expertise for balanced growth, diversifying and strengthening Hawai`i Island's economy, and supporting statewide economic initiatives. Recently HIEDB updated the Hawai`i County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and led the effort in updating the Hawai`i State CEDS with the Hawai`i State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

HIEDB strongly supports SB1296 SD1 and establishment of the Hawai`i Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Organization and Governing Board.

In addition to development of the initial CEDS in 2005 and updates in 2010, 2016, and 2022 per EDA requirements, HIEDB has worked on other initiatives on behalf of and with both OPSD and EDA, as well as, in collaboration with other public and private sector stakeholders in support of comprehensive economic development both on Hawai`i Island and throughout the state of Hawai`i including securing millions of dollars in federal funding. Establishment of the Hawai`i EDD will enhance such efforts and provide more opportunities for the state and implementation of important economic development strategies and programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer this testimony in support of SB1296 SD1.

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MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Ways and Means

SUPPORT FOR SB1296 SD1 RELATING TO HOUSING.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **supports SB1296 SD1** which establishes the Hawai'i Economic Development District Planning Organization and board and designates the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to organize the Hawai'i Economic Development District Planning Organization.

The Chamber supports this initiative as it would better connect the state with federal agencies and may increase important economic development federal funding of projects in Hawaii. We agree with the placement of this board under DBEDT as well.

Free enterprise helps to diversify and stimulate the economy and generate new jobs. Therefore, in addition to those listed in the bill to serve on the board, we feel it should also include a representative from each of the chambers of commerce from each island in the state.

For these reasons, we **support SB1296 SD1 with our proposed amendment.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Tumpap".

Pamela Tumpap
President