

## SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

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Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)  
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**Josh Green, M.D.**  
*Governor*

**Sylvia Luke**  
*Lt. Governor*

**James Kunane Tokioka**  
*DBEDT Director*

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

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Mary Albitz  
*Chairperson  
Maui*

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*Vice Chairperson  
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Walch  
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*Hawai'i*

Garth Yamanaka  
*Hawai'i*

Sanford Morioka  
*O'ahu*

Tessa Gomes  
*O'ahu*

Mark Ritchie for  
Director, DBEDT  
*Voting Ex Officio*

### TESTIMONY

**TO:** Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

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

**DATE:** March 14, 2024 – Room 229 & Videoconference at 1:01 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** Support – House Bill 2354 HD1– Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board

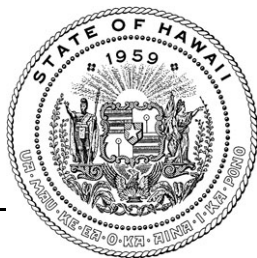
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On behalf of the SBRRB, I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2354 HD1, Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

Specifically, House Bill clarifies that, in addition to reviewing any proposed new or amended rule, the SBRRB has the authority to review legislation affecting small businesses.

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 clarifying its legislative powers under the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Thank you for hearing our comments and the SBRRB's support of House Bill 2354 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

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Thursday, March 14, 2024  
1:01 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB 2354, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports House Bill 2354 HD1. This measure clarifies the intent of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board's (SBRRB's) powers so that in addition to considering any request from small business owners for review of any rule, proposed, amended, or adopted by a state agency, the SBRRB has the authority to review legislation affecting small businesses in response to requests from small business owners.

It is important that the SBRRB's purview is clearly understood by the small business community, state and county agencies, Hawaii business chambers, and trade organizations. The changes are expected to clarify the Board's powers to avoid any misinterpretations.

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

March 14, 2024, 1:01 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

**To: Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**  
**Sen. Lynn DeCoite, Chair**  
**Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**  
**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

RE: COMMENTS IN SUPPORT FOR HB2354 HD1 — RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its **comments in support** of [HB2354 HD1](#), which would allow the Small Business Regulatory Review Board to comment on proposed legislation at the request of a small business owner.

The Small Business Regulatory Review Board was established in 1998 to represent the interests of Hawaii entrepreneurs in the executive branch. It functions mainly to review proposed amendments, additions and deletions to the administrative rules of state agencies.

However, it rarely suggests amendments to or opposes new administrative rules,<sup>1</sup> calling into question its efficacy as a defender of small business interests. This might be because few business owners know about the Board.

By expanding the Board's scope of responsibilities to include legislative input, this bill could help increase the Board's impact and effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas  
Director of Strategic Campaigns  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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<sup>1</sup> "[Hawaii Small Business Regulatory Review Board: Annual Report Summary](#)," Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, 2023, p. 33.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

**LATE**

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 1:01PM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB2354 HD1 Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board**

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB2354 HD1**, which clarifies the intent of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board's (SBRRB's) powers so that in addition to considering any request from small business owners for review of any rule, proposed, amended, or adopted by a state agency, the SBRRB has the authority to review legislation affecting small businesses in response to requests from small business owners.

The Small Business Regulatory Review Board was established to represent the interests of Hawaii entrepreneurs in the executive branch. By expanding the Board's scope of responsibilities to include legislative input, the potential of the Board's impact and effectiveness may be mobilized at a time advocacy for entrepreneurship in our state is called for.

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. Based on stakeholder input, careful planning and collaboration among government, businesses, and communities is critical to foster sustainable economic development for our state. To build greater local wealth, commitment to an improved entrepreneurial ecosystem, developed with a coalition of partner organizations, was a top recommendation.

This measure will proactively ensure the stability of the SBRRB by eliminating any potential misinterpretations of the Board's authority while clarifying its legislative powers under the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

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.

**HB-2354-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:09:58 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT. GOOD IDEA TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESS.

MAHALO!

**LATE**

**HB-2354-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:36:10 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to authorize the SBRRB to review legislation affecting small businesses. This Board can play an important role in assuring that the impacts of both laws and regulations impacting small businesses, including farms, are fairly considered.

Thank you.