
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need to
2 bolster business innovation and economic development in the
3 State by partnering with the private sector. The legislature
4 also finds that the chambers of commerce in Hawaii, with their
5 vast membership of small businesses, are in an excellent
6 position to develop and cultivate greater entrepreneurship.

7 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
8 business, economic development, and tourism to establish a
9 chamber of commerce grant program for entrepreneurs.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§201- Chambers of commerce; grant program. (a) The
14 department shall establish and administer a chamber of commerce
15 grant program to provide funding to qualifying chambers of
16 commerce.



1 (b) Requests for grants shall be submitted to the
2 department in accordance with administrative rules adopted by
3 the department to administer the grant program. Each request
4 shall, at a minimum, state:

5 (1) The name of the chamber of commerce requesting grant
6 funds; and

7 (2) Measurable outcomes from the use of the grant to
8 include entrepreneur mentoring, workshops conducted,
9 new businesses created, and specific skills developed.

10 (c) Each applicant for a grant shall provide proof to the
11 department that the applicant:

12 (1) Serves at least three hundred businesses;

13 (2) Complies with all other federal, state, or county
14 statutes, rules, or ordinances necessary to conduct
15 the activities or provide the services for which a
16 grant is awarded;

17 (3) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws
18 prohibiting discrimination against a person on the
19 basis of race, color, national origin, religion,
20 creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;



1 (4) Satisfies any other standards that may be required by
2 the source of funding; and

3 (5) Meets all other standards prescribed in rules adopted
4 by the department to implement the grants awarded
5 under this section.

6 (d) Every request for grant funds shall be submitted to
7 the department on an application form provided by the department
8 and shall at a minimum contain the information required by
9 subsection (c). The department shall review each request to
10 determine whether the applicant is eligible to receive grants
11 funds and shall make a final decision on each request. Upon
12 approval of the request, the department shall award an applicant
13 a grant of up to \$100,000. The department shall inform each
14 grant applicant of the disposition of the applicant's request.
15 The department shall adopt rules to establish an appeals process
16 for any denial of a request.

17 (e) Each chamber of commerce applicant who, after meeting
18 the requirements of subsection (c), receives grant funds from
19 the department shall use the funds for developing and
20 cultivating entrepreneurs, with a focus on mentoring, workshops
21 and skill development. Funds shall also be used for critical



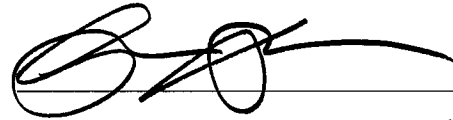
1 needs, including additional staffing, technical assistance,
2 essential software, or technology upgrades. A chamber of
3 commerce who receives grant funds pursuant to this section shall
4 submit to the department an annual report detailing the use of
5 funds.

6 (f) The department shall adopt rules without regard to
7 chapter 91 to administer the grant program."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

10 INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2025



H.B. NO. 1407

Report Title:

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
Chambers of Commerce; Grant Program

Description:

Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
Tourism to establish a Chamber of Commerce Grant Program.

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