



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 10:45 P.M.
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

RE: HR 161 / HCR 160

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **generally supports** HR 161 / HCR 160 which urges the Mayors and Councils of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai to establish business improvement districts.

The Chamber works closely with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to improve certain strategic locations across the state and make them more economically viable. The State has business improvement districts in Chinatown, Fort Street Mall, and Waikiki on Oahu; Hilo, Hawaii; and Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

By pooling resources and expertise, businesses can leverage their collective power to support initiatives that would be difficult or impossible to accomplish on an individual basis. This includes marketing and promotion efforts, capital improvements, and the implementation of public safety and security measures.

In addition to the potential economic benefits, BIDs also have the ability to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve. By promoting a clean, safe, and welcoming environment, BIDs can create a more vibrant and enjoyable atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. This, in turn, can lead to increased tourism, job creation, and a stronger local economy.

We believe that the establishment of more BIDs throughout the state would be a significant step towards realizing these benefits.

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.