



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS &
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 5, 2009
8:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

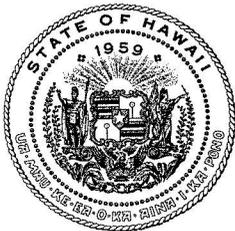
HB 1622
RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the House Committee on
Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports House Bill 1622, "Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board." The bill directs the Review Board, which is administratively attached to DBEDT, to work with State agencies to identify rules that need to be amended or repealed in order to conform to the repeal of underlying statutes implemented by those rules and to ensure that the statutory references in the rules are current.

DBEDT believes that it is essential that administrative rules are reviewed and updated on a regular basis in order to remain current with related statutory provisions. This process should help streamline the current processes already in place and eliminate any confusion presently encountered. It should also help solidify the Review Board's role as the primary agent for small businesses that are burdened by out-dated, obsolete and redundant rules and regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

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To: Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs – Conference Room 312

Re: HB 1622 – “Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board”

From: Small Business Regulatory Review Board

Date: February 5, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Aloha:

As the Chairperson of and on behalf of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board (Review Board), I offer testimony in **support of the intent** of HB 1622, “Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.” HB 1622 requires the Review Board to identify administrative rules to conform to the repeal of related statutes. It also directs the Review Board to work with the State agencies to develop a procedure for expediting a rule amendment or rule repeal when the changes are required only to comply with the repeal of statutes. The Review Board believes that the process is already in place but with the members working with the Department Directors, the process can be refined.

The Review Board is most appreciative of the change of attitude towards business shown over the past few years. The support the Review Board is receiving from current Department Directors and from many elected officials is gratifying. On behalf of the members of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Yours truly,

Lynne Woods, Chairperson
Small Business Regulatory Review Board

**Testimony to the House Committee on
Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Thursday, February 5, 2009
8:00 a.m.
Conference Room 312**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1622 RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). I am here to state The Chamber's support to House Bill No. 1622, relating to Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 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 its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

HB 1622 requires the small business regulatory review board to identify rules that shall be amended or repealed to conform to the repeal of related statutes. The measure also directs the board to work with state agencies to develop a procedure for expediting the amendment or repeal of rules when the changes are required only to comply with the repeal of statutes.

In Hawaii, small businesses are the engine for Hawaii's economy through the creation of jobs which provide innovative products and services, and the generation of economic activity. They reflect all industries and a wide range of employment.

As a result of the rules that are outdated, restrictive, overly complex, and burdensome, small businesses, many who operated on limited resources, financial support, and time, face unnecessary obstacles in their effort to grow to their full potential. With the economy struggling and employers hit with a rising cost of doing business, rules that are not amended or repealed to reflect the recent statutory changes will further undermine the viability and growth of this sector. The impact of regulatory costs on small firms include: economic, workplace, environmental, and tax compliance regulations.

Review and reform are needed so small businesses can better compete in today's increasingly competitive and modernized economy. By keeping the rules consistent with today's regulations, and increasing access to capital, these reforms would stimulate growth, especially at a time when Hawaii needs it most.

Thus, The Chamber respectfully requests HB 1622 be passed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The Voice of Small Business®

**Before the House Committee on
Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs**

DATE: February 5, 2009
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312
DELIVER TO: Please deliver 30 copies to room 312

Re: HB 1622

**Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board
Testimony of Melissa Pavlicek for NFIB Hawaii**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1622. NFIB supports this measure in its current form. NFIB has been participating in the Small Business Regulatory Review Board's working committee which has recommended this measure for approval. We recognize and appreciate the efforts of legislators to address small business concerns.

The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest advocacy organization representing small and independent businesses in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. In Hawaii, NFIB represents more than 1,000 members. NFIB's purpose is to impact public policy at the state and federal level and be a key business resource for small and independent business in America. NFIB also provides timely information designed to help small businesses succeed.