
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLANNING
ORGANIZATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that being designated as
2 an economic development district by the United States Economic
3 Development Administration offers opportunities to advance
4 coordinated and locally developed goals that leverage and build
5 upon interrelated community assets, such as workforce,
6 infrastructure, and housing. An economic development district
7 advances a long-term established relationship with the United
8 States Economic Development Administration that includes annual
9 federal funding to support the development and implementation of
10 the Hawaii comprehensive economic development strategy. The
11 United States Economic Development Administration is much more
12 likely to invest federal funds in a designated economic
13 development district than in an area that is not covered by an
14 economic development district.

15 The legislature further finds that, pursuant to Title 13
16 Code of Federal Regulations section 304.1, an economic



1 development district designation by the United States Economic
2 Development Administration requires:

3 (1) A comprehensive economic development strategy that has
4 been approved by the Assistant Secretary for Economic
5 Development of the United States Department of
6 Commerce and includes a specific program for
7 intra-district cooperation, self-help, and public
8 investment;

9 (2) Commitments from a majority of counties within the
10 proposed district;

11 (3) A district organization, which may be organized under
12 state law as a multi-jurisdictional area-wide planning
13 organization; and

14 (4) That the district organization meet requirements
15 established in Title 13 Code of Federal Regulations
16 section 304.2, including that the organization's
17 governing body be broadly representative of the
18 principal economic interests of the region by
19 involving the private sector, public officials,
20 community leaders, representatives of workforce



1 development boards, institutions of higher learning,
2 minority and labor groups, and private citizens.

3 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that Hawaii is
4 eligible for the substantial benefits of a United States
5 Economic Development Administration-designated economic
6 development district by:

7 (1) Establishing the Hawaii economic development district
8 planning organization and governing board to be
9 administratively attached to the office of planning
10 and sustainable development; and

11 (2) Creating full-time equivalent temporary
12 positions and appropriating funds to support the
13 operations of the Hawaii economic development district
14 planning organization.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
17 designated and to read as follows:

18 "§226- Hawaii economic development district planning
19 organization. (a) There is established the Hawaii economic
20 development district planning organization, which shall be the
21 district organization for purposes of implementing the United



1 States Economic Development Administration-approved
2 comprehensive economic development strategy. The Hawaii
3 economic development district planning organization shall be
4 placed within the department of business, economic development,
5 and tourism and attached to the office of planning and
6 sustainable development for administrative purposes.

7 (b) The Hawaii economic development district planning
8 organization shall:

9 (1) Develop, manage, and support effective multi-level
10 partnerships to promote intra-district cooperation,
11 self-help, and public investment to restore and
12 sustain economic resilience and prosperity;

13 (2) Assist organizations within the economic development
14 district with applications for funding;

15 (3) Implement the United States Economic Development
16 Administration-approved comprehensive economic
17 development strategy; and

18 (4) Report to the governor and legislature regarding any
19 annual updates to the comprehensive economic
20 development strategy.



1 (c) The Hawaii economic development district planning
2 organization shall be headed by a board that shall comprise the
3 following fifteen members:

4 (1) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
5 development or the director's designee, who shall
6 serve as chair;

7 (2) The mayor of each county or the respective mayor's
8 designee;

9 (3) The executive director of each county economic
10 development board or the respective executive
11 director's designee;

12 (4) A representative of each county workforce development
13 board, who shall be designated by the chair of the
14 respective board;

15 (5) The president of the university of Hawaii or the
16 president's designee; and

17 (6) A representative of a labor organization who shall be
18 appointed by the governor.

19 (d) The nongovernmental members of the Hawaii economic
20 development district planning organization board shall serve for



1 no more than two consecutive four-year terms. Members shall not
2 be subject to section 26-34(a).

3 (e) Members of the Hawaii economic development district
4 planning organization board shall serve without compensation but
5 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including reasonable travel
6 expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

7 (f) The Hawaii economic development district planning
8 organization board shall hold public meetings at least twice a
9 year. The meetings shall be subject to chapter 92."

10 SECTION 3. There are established full-time
11 equivalent (.0 FTE) temporary economic development planning
12 analyst positions to support the Hawaii economic development
13 district planning organization; provided that the positions
14 shall be exempt from chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised
15 Statutes; provided further that the positions shall be funded
16 using general funds.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including
2 the hiring of necessary staff.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
5 of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Hawaii Economic Development District Planning Organization; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Economic Development District Planning Organization. Designates the Hawaii Economic Development District Planning Organization as the district organization for purposes of implementing the United States Economic Development Administration-approved comprehensive economic development strategy. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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