
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING 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 AS
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS.

1 WHEREAS, special improvement districts, also known as
2 business improvement districts, are economic development
3 organizations that bring public services to certain
4 neighborhoods to provide governmental public services; and
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6 WHEREAS, business improvement districts are approved by
7 state legislation and funded by assessment fees paid by
8 merchants and property owners within the district; and
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10 WHEREAS, business improvement districts are managed by
11 public or nonprofit boards, predominantly with local business
12 representation, but also commonly include representation from
13 area residents and local governments; and
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15 WHEREAS, business improvement districts create collective
16 economic benefits for their members that cannot be achieved on
17 an individual basis, including providing sanitation, enhanced
18 security, capital improvements, neighborhood promotions, and
19 business attractions, such as leading marketing campaigns to
20 attract commercial tenants, customers, tourists, and investors;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, business improvement districts achieve success
24 when services match the needs of the people in those districts,
25 which can only be used to fund local improvements that provide
26 benefits within the designated district; and
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28 WHEREAS, Act 107, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999, codified as
29 section 46-80.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the



1 counties to create special improvement districts for the
2 purposes of providing, financing, and coordinating federal,
3 state, and county efforts to engage in:

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- 5 (1) Supplemental maintenance and security services;
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 - 7 (2) Environmental research, restoration, and maintenance;
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 - 9 (3) Natural resource management;
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 - 11 (4) Natural hazard mitigation;
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 - 13 (5) Climate change and sea level rise adaptation; and
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 - 15 (6) Other improvements, services, and facilities within
16 the special improvement districts that will improve
17 environmental conditions, provide community benefits,
18 and restore or promote business activity in the
19 special improvement districts and the making and
20 financing of improvements within those districts; and

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22 WHEREAS, the State has business improvement districts in
23 Chinatown, Fort Street Mall, and Waikiki on Oahu; Hilo, Hawaii;
24 and Kailua-Kona, Hawaii; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Chinatown Improvement District has been
27 operating since 2010 and works to improve conditions in the
28 greater Chinatown area and encourage and promote the
29 preservation and enhancement of the ethnic, cultural, and
30 historical character and significance of Chinatown; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Waikiki Business Improvement District was
33 authorized and established in 2000 and is managed by the Waikiki
34 Business Improvement District Association, which works in
35 partnership with business and government to develop and
36 implement programs that will strengthen the physical and
37 economic vitality of Waikiki and help maintain its position as a
38 world class resort designation; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Fort Street Mall Business Improvement District
41 was signed into law in 2002 and was patterned after the Waikiki
42 Business Improvement District; and



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WHEREAS, the Hilo Downtown Improvement Association was founded more than forty years ago to revitalize and reestablish historic downtown Hilo as the social, cultural, and commercial center of East Hawaii and works with its founding partners and the County of Hawaii to protect, preserve, and create a vibrant downtown Hilo enjoyable for all; and

WHEREAS, the Kailua Village Business Improvement District was established in 2007 with a mission to make Historic Kailua Village a sustainable model for a community that is a better place to invest, work, live, and play; and

WHEREAS, business improvement districts help improve services that are provided by the municipality and increase the quality and efficiency of outcomes usually required of businesses, and can have a significant positive impact on commercial property values; and

WHEREAS, establishing more business improvement districts throughout Hawaii can increase the vitality and attractiveness of communities in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Mayors and Councils of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai are urged to establish business improvement districts as special improvement districts within their respective counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, Chairperson of the Maui County Council, Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council, and Chairperson of the Kauai County Council.

