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# HOUSE 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  
30 counties to create special improvement districts for the



- 1 purposes of providing, financing, and coordinating federal,  
 2 state, and county efforts to engage in:  
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 4 (1) Supplemental maintenance and security services;  
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 6 (2) Environmental research, restoration, and maintenance;  
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 8 (3) Natural resource management;  
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 10 (4) Natural hazard mitigation;  
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 12 (5) Climate change and sea level rise adaptation; and  
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 14 (6) Other improvements, services, and facilities within  
 15 the special improvement districts that will improve  
 16 environmental conditions, provide community benefits,  
 17 and restore or promote business activity in the  
 18 special improvement districts and the making and  
 19 financing of improvements within those districts; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the State has business improvement districts in  
 22 Chinatown, Fort Street Mall, and Waikiki on Oahu; Hilo, Hawaii;  
 23 and Kailua-Kona, Hawaii; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the Chinatown Improvement District has been  
 26 operating since 2010 and works to improve conditions in the  
 27 greater Chinatown area and encourage and promote the  
 28 preservation and enhancement of the ethnic, cultural, and  
 29 historical character and significance of Chinatown; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the Waikiki Business Improvement District was  
 32 authorized and established in 2000 and is managed by the Waikiki  
 33 Business Improvement District Association, which works in  
 34 partnership with business and government to develop and  
 35 implement programs that will strengthen the physical and  
 36 economic vitality of Waikiki and help maintain its position as a  
 37 world class resort designation; and  
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39 WHEREAS, the Fort Street Mall Business Improvement District  
 40 was signed into law in 2002 and was patterned after the Waikiki  
 41 Business Improvement District; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the Hilo Downtown Improvement Association was  
2 founded more than forty years ago to revitalize and reestablish  
3 historic downtown Hilo as the social, cultural, and commercial  
4 center of East Hawaii and works with its founding partners and  
5 the County of Hawaii to protect, preserve, and create a vibrant  
6 downtown Hilo enjoyable for all; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Kailua Village Business Improvement District  
9 was established in 2007 with a mission to make Historic Kailua  
10 Village a sustainable model for a community that is a better  
11 place to invest, work, live, and play; and

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

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

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

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of  
33 Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of  
34 Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Chairperson of the  
35 Honolulu City Council, Chairperson of the Maui County Council,  
36 Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council, and Chairperson of the  
37 Kauai County Council.

