
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 designation of an
2 area as an economic development district by the United States
3 Economic Development Administration offers an opportunity to
4 advance coordinated and locally developed goals that leverage
5 and build upon interrelated community assets, such as its
6 workforce, infrastructure, and housing. Designation as an
7 economic development district fosters a lasting partnership with
8 the United States Economic Development Administration and allows
9 for annual federal funding to facilitate the formulation and
10 execution of a region's comprehensive economic development
11 strategy. The comprehensive economic development strategy is a
12 critical document that unlocks access to federal funding under
13 the United States Economic Development Administration's public
14 works and economic adjustment assistance programs. The United
15 States Economic Development Administration is substantially more
16 likely to invest federal funds in a designated economic



1 development district on a per capita basis than in areas that
2 have not been designated. To that end, the establishment of a
3 statewide economic development district is a key objective
4 identified in the 2023 Hawaii state comprehensive economic
5 development strategy.

6 The legislature further finds that the department of
7 business, economic development, and tourism has initiated the
8 designation process with the United States Economic Development
9 Administration for an economic development district encompassing
10 the State of Hawaii. The office of planning and sustainable
11 development was named as the district organization pursuant to
12 the requirements set forth in title 13 Code of Federal
13 Regulations section 304.2.

14 The legislature also finds that pursuant to title 13 Code
15 of Federal Regulations section 304.2(c)(3), a district
16 organization must be assisted by a professional staff having
17 economic development planning and coordination qualifications to
18 conduct the activities of the district organization, including
19 developing, managing, and supporting effective multi-level
20 partnerships to promote intra-district cooperation, self-help,
21 and public investment, to restore and sustain economic



1 resilience and prosperity; carrying out economic development
2 planning, coordination, and advisory functions to facilitate
3 implementation of the comprehensive economic development
4 strategy; and assisting community and economic development
5 organizations across the State to access United States Economic
6 Development Administration funding.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish, and
8 appropriate moneys for, temporary positions to ensure that the
9 office of planning and sustainable development has the necessary
10 human resources to effectively conduct the activities of a
11 district organization pursuant to title 13 Code of Federal
12 Regulations part 304 to secure Hawaii's eligibility to access
13 the substantial advantages associated with a United States
14 Economic Development Administration-designated economic
15 development district.

16 SECTION 2. There are established four full-time equivalent
17 (4.0 FTE) temporary positions within the office of planning and
18 sustainable development to support the activities of a district
19 organization for a statewide economic development district;
20 provided that the positions shall be exempt from chapters 76 and
21 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
2 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
3 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
4 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
5 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
6 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
7 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
8 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
9 interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
13 purposes of this Act, including the hiring of necessary staff.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
15 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
16 Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



H.B. NO. 1960
H.D. 1

Report Title:

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

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for temporary positions
within OPSD to support the activities of a district organization
for a statewide economic development district. Effective
7/1/3000. (HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

