



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

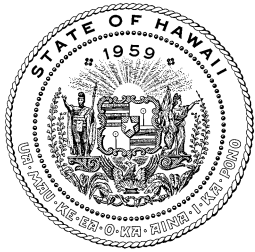
Friday, February 16, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 via Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 2354 HD1
RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports House Bill 2354 HD1. This measure clarifies the intent of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board's (SBRRB's) powers so that in addition to considering any request from small business owners for review of any rule, proposed, amended, or adopted by a state agency, the SBRRB has the authority to review legislation affecting small businesses in response to requests from small business owners.

It is important that the SBRRB's purview is clearly understood by the small business community, state and county agencies, Hawaii business chambers, and trade organizations. The changes are expected to clarify the Board's powers to avoid any misinterpretations.

Thank you for allowing DBEDT the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)
No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel Street, Fifth Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, HI 96804
Email: dbedt.sbrb.info@hawaii.gov
Website: sbrb.hawaii.gov

Tel: 808 798-0737

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

Sylvia Luke
Lt. Governor

James Kunane Tokioka
DBEDT Director

Dane K. Wicker
DBEDT Deputy Director

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O'ahu

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O'ahu

Mark Ritchie for
Director, DBEDT
Voting Ex Officio

TESTIMONY

TO: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Mary Albitz, Chair, Small Business Regulatory Review Board
(SBRRB) *Mary Albitz*

DATE: February 16, 2024 – Room 325 at 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Support – House Bill 2354 HD1– Relating to the Small Business
Regulatory Review Board

On behalf of the SBRRB, I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2354 HD1,
Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

Specifically, House Bill clarifies that, in addition to reviewing any proposed new or
amended rule, the SBRRB has the authority to review legislation affecting small
businesses.

I am proud of the success and accomplishments this hardworking group of gratis
members has had over the past 25+ years. This measure will ensure the stability
of the SBRRB by clarifying its legislative powers under the Small Business
Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Thank you for hearing our comments and the SBRRB's support of House Bill 2354
HD1.

Feb. 16, 2024, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: COMMENTS IN SUPPORT FOR HB2354 HD1
— RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments in support of [HB2354 HD1](#), which would allow the Small Business Regulatory Review Board to comment on proposed legislation at the request of a small business owner.

The Small Business Regulatory Review Board was established in 1998 to represent the interests of Hawaii entrepreneurs in the executive branch. It functions mainly to review proposed amendments, additions and deletions to the administrative rules of state agencies.

However, it rarely suggests amendments to or opposes new administrative rules,¹ calling into question its efficacy as a defender of small business interests.

This might be because few business owners know about the board. By expanding the Board's scope of responsibilities to include legislative input, this bill could help increase the Board's impact and effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ "[Hawaii Small Business Regulatory Review Board: Annual Report Summary](#)," Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, 2023, p. 33.