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# 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           full-time equivalent  
17 (       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 \$ or so  
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
 13 the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of necessary  
 14 staff.

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

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

# H.B. NO. 1960 H.D. 2

**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. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

