



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

LATE

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Statement of
James Kunane Tokioka
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

February 3, 2026
9:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SB2354
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS.

Chairs Keohokalole and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Wakai and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of **SB2354** and offers comments on this bill the requires the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to make certain contact information for newly registered entities available online. This bill also requires the department director to transmit certain specified contact information to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) Business Development and Support Division.

DBEDT agrees that this measure may assist in the promotion and increased public awareness of services that it offers Hawaii's businesses, including technical assistance, finance opportunities, and training. DBEDT notes that there is an ongoing initiative currently in place to accomplish these goals.

In partnership with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), Business Registration Division (BREG), DBEDT has been able to share its services relating to technical assistance, financing opportunities and economic information, with Hawaii businesses who register online with Hawaii Business Express since July of 2024. When a new business registers or an existing business renews files its report online, the registrant receives a confirmation email from DCCA. This email includes language directing recipients to a dedicated DBEDT landing page (<https://invest.hawaii.gov/dcca/>) that highlights business support programs and services offer by DBEDT's Divisions and attached agencies. This link is also accessible on DCCA's Business Action Center webpage in the "Training Opportunities and Resources" and "Starting a Business" sections. This initiative allows businesses to effectively "opt-in", guides interested parties to the relevant program or service and assists DBEDT in managing inquiries.

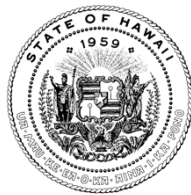
While DBEDT does not receive contact information up-front, for those who sign up on the DBEDT landing page to receive DBEDT information and our newsletter, DBEDT will then follow up and place on our mailing list.

DBEDT emphasizes that information security, privacy interests, and minimizing the risk of data exposure and unwanted solicitation should be considered along with small business support efforts.

DBEDT defers to the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for matters related to legal authority, operational implementation and overall feasibility associated with this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
And
House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference
On the following measure:
S.B. 2045, RELATING TO COMBAT SPORTS

Chair Keohokalole, Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committees:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The Department supports the intent of this bill, which establishes a Combat Sports Commission (Commission), and offers comments.

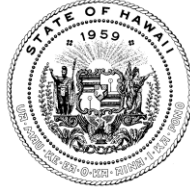
The purposes of this bill are to: (1) rename the Boxing Commission of Hawaii as the Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii; (2) amend the jurisdiction of the Commission to include combat sports contests; (3) prohibit no rules combat or similar combat sports contests; and (4) repeal the existing Mixed Martial Arts Contests Program.

The Department appreciates the consideration of combining the regulation of mixed martial arts and boxing under a single commission titled the Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii. This expansion would ease administration costs on licensees

and provide flexibility to the Commission to address all combat sports. However, the bill, as currently written does not address many issues related to combat sports which are essential to the regulation of mixed martial arts and are currently included in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 440E, Mixed Martial Arts Contests.

The Department requests the following amendment on page 39, lines 8 to 15, the Department recommends that: (a) the composition of any board or commission be an odd numbered of members; and (b) that at least one (1) member on the Commission be a public member.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and
Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:35 a.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 2354, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Chair Keohokalole, Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ty Nohara, and I am the Commissioner of Securities and head of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Business Registration Division (BREG). The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Department to (1) make available online certain contact information of newly registered corporations, professional corporations, and limited liability companies, and (2) transmit this contact information to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism - Business Development and Support Division (DBEDT). Thus, this bill seeks to amend chapters 414 and 428 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to add new sections¹ that require

¹ Additionally, this bill seeks to amend HRS § 415A-14.7 to provide that the required filings for a professional corporation will also be governed by the new section to be added to HRS chapter 414.

such newly registered entities to provide the following information that will made available online as part of BREG's database of public information:

- Name and contact information, including phone number;
- Electronic mail address; and
- Mailing address.

This bill further requires the Department to transmit the above information to DBEDT, unless the newly registered entity affirmatively opts out of the transmission of its information.

1. As an initial matter, every entity's principal address and mailing address, and its agent's name and mailing address, are already available on BREG's online database, through a portal known as "Hawaii Business Express."²
2. Since July 2024, and as a result of the collaboration between DBEDT and BREG, BREG has assisted newly registered entities to learn about, and to access, the programs that DBEDT offers to businesses. This is done through the confirming email that BREG sends a new entity after it has registered with BREG. The confirming email includes a message from DBEDT that (a) informs the entity that DBEDT provides technical assistance, financing opportunities, and economic information to support businesses, and (b) invites the entity to learn more and to participate in DBEDT's business development and support programs, via a link to a DBEDT-designed web page.³ Entities that are interested in these programs may then "opt-in" to receive services from DBEDT. The DBEDT link is also included in the Department's Business Action Center home page, under its "Training Opportunities and Resources" page⁴ and its "Starting a Business" page.⁵

² Hawaii Business Express is a search portal that provides online users (1) the ability to search for an entity by name to determine whether the entity exists, and (2) basic information regarding that entity.

³ DBEDT's message and its link are also provided in BREG's confirming email to existing entities after certain filings submitted to BREG have been completed and/or approved.

⁴ See <https://cca.hawaii.gov/bac/training-opportunities-from-other-organizations/>.

⁵ See <https://cca.hawaii.gov/bac/steps-to-starting-a-business/research-the-market/>.

3. In addition to amending the HRS, this bill will require the adoption of new rules and revision of the forms that a new entity must file to be registered in the State's business registry. Further, the myriad documents and transactions that BREG processes are supported by a highly complex "back end" management and documents processing system. The collection and transmission of the additional data contemplated by this bill, and the required revisions to BREG's forms, will necessitate system adjustments. Therefore, BREG respectfully requests an appropriation to contract for the services required to perform such work. BREG also requests that this bill's effective date be deferred to a later date to allow BREG sufficient time to adopt the necessary rules, revise the applicable forms, and complete the required system adjustments.
4. Some entities may not wish to have their telephone numbers and/or electronic mail addresses made publicly available online, as that may subject an entity to spam communications and other unsolicited, and potentially abusive, contact. Moreover, the Department cannot ensure that such contact information, once made "available online," will only be used in a manner consistent with the conditions or reasonable expectations of use and disclosure under which the entity provided the information to BREG.
5. The Department may violate personal privacy interests by making "available online" certain contact information that would otherwise be protected from disclosure to the public, pursuant to HRS chapter 92H, which protects the personal information of certain public servants.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE



TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
FEBRUARY 2, 2026
**IN SUPPORT OF SB 2354 – RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Dave Erdman, and I am the Interim President and CEO of Retail Merchants of Hawai'i (RMH), a statewide nonprofit trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, and allied businesses across Hawai'i.

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 2354.

This measure addresses a fundamental and long-standing problem: the State lacks a practical and reliable way to communicate with the vast majority of Hawai'i's registered businesses.

Today, Hawai'i has over 200,000 registered businesses, yet the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) reportedly has direct contact information for fewer than 10,000. This gap is not merely inefficient—it undermines the State's ability to support businesses during economic disruptions, natural disasters, public-health emergencies, workforce shortages, regulatory changes, and opportunities to share information about grants or marketing support.

Retailers tell us they often miss out on:

- Timely information about grants, loans, and relief programs
- Workforce development and training opportunities
- Emergency response guidance and recovery resources
- Economic data, planning tools, and technical assistance

SB 2354 provides a commonsense solution by requiring the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to make business registration contact information available for legitimate government economic-development and outreach purposes. Without this data sharing, DBEDT is being asked to support businesses it simply cannot reach.

From the retail community's perspective, this bill:

- Improves government-to-business communication
- Strengthens economic resilience and preparedness
- Helps ensure small, local, and neighbor-island businesses are not left behind
- Makes state economic-development efforts more equitable, effective, and data-driven

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i believes government cannot effectively assist the business community without accurate and accessible contact information. SB 2354 removes an unnecessary barrier and modernizes how the State engages with its economic base.

For these reasons, RMH respectfully urges your support of SB 2354.

Mahalo, for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to Hawai'i's business community.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Erdman
Interim President & CEO
Retail Merchants of Hawai'i

LATE

Testimony of the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
and
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2045, RELATING TO COMBAT SPORTS**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Jo, and I am the Executive Officer of the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii (Commission). The Commission supports and offers comments on this bill.

This bill renames the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i as the Boxing and Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii, amends the jurisdiction of the Commission to include combat sports contests, prohibits no rules combat or similar combat sports contests, and repeals the existing Mixed Martial Arts Contests Program.

While the Commission supports the overall intent of the bill and its focus on strengthening oversight and accountability, we respectfully suggest the following amendments and considerations.

HRS440-A: page 3, line 16. The Commission respectfully recommends maintaining the 18-year minimum age requirement for professional-level contestants while permitting a broader age range for amateur competitors under 18 years of age, in order to provide for the development of combat sports at the amateur level. The Commission respectfully notes that currently, amateur boxing competitions frequently include contestants under the age of 18.

HRS440-E: page 9, line 13. The Commission respectfully expresses concerns regarding the establishment of a combat sports registry. The Commission notes that maintaining an active registry of all contestants represents a significant administrative undertaking that will require substantial resources and infrastructure. The Commission respectfully requests that dedicated funding be allocated to enable the Department of

Commerce and Consumer Affairs to properly establish and maintain such a registry with appropriate parameters, technical specifications, and staffing in place to ensure its effective operation and compliance with regulatory requirements.

HRS440-F: page 9, line 18. The Commission respectfully requests clarification regarding the scope of its exclusive jurisdiction, direction, management, and control over combat sports as defined in S.B. 2045, to ensure proper implementation of the regulatory framework and to avoid jurisdictional ambiguity. Specifically, the Commission seeks to understand whether its authority extends to disciplines such as wrestling, judo, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and other combat sports that have not historically been subject to Commission oversight in the State of Hawaii.

HRS440-I: page 17, line 7. The Commission notes that most amateur boxing competitions in the United States do not require an on-site ambulance. Industry members in combat sports have indicated to the Commission that the cost of retaining an ambulance is prohibitively expensive for amateur-level combat sports events to realistically be held.

HRS440-2: page 39, line 11. The Commission respectfully requests that the eight-member commission be amended to consist of seven commission members. A seven-member structure promotes operational efficiency, reduces the risk of quorum and tie-vote issues, and aligns with best practices commonly used by similarly situated boards and commissions. This approach would help ensure timely decision-making while still preserving diverse perspectives and effective representation.

HRS440-32: page 41, line 17. The Commission respectfully requests that the specified dollar amount limitation for medals or trophies be removed from the language. The Commission notes that current industry standard practice for amateur-level awards utilizes medals, trophies, and belts constructed from gold-plated plastic or synthetic leather materials, with average costs in today's market ranging from \$50 to \$150. Additionally, the Commission observes that establishing a fixed price cap of \$35 would be impractical given ongoing inflationary pressures and fluctuations in material and production costs over time. The Commission recommends either eliminating the

monetary threshold or establishing a mechanism for periodic adjustment to reflect market conditions.

In addition, the Commission respectfully suggests an amendment to this bill to include a targeted appropriation to support implementation of the Act. The Commission believes the scope and complexity of the new licensure categories, regulatory oversight, and administrative responsibilities created by this measure will require dedicated resources to ensure timely, consistent, and effective implementation.

Accordingly, the Commission recommends that SB 2045 be amended to read:

“SECTION 15. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$148,406 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1 FTE) positions within the department of commerce and consumer affairs for the boxing and combat sports commission of Hawaii. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.”

Finally, the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii respectfully requests an implementation period of twelve to eighteen months following enactment. This timeframe would allow the Commission to work in coordination with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to develop necessary applications, establish appropriate procedures, and complete required system and operational updates.

The requested implementation period would also provide adequate time for the Governor’s Office to appoint and assign new commission members, as well as for the Commission to draft and adopt the Hawai’i Administrative Rules required under this bill, while ensuring continuity of licensing and combat sport events without disruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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LATE

TO: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 3, 2026

TIME: 9:35am

RE: SB2354 Relating to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA has proudly produced the Made in Hawaii Festival for over 30 years. One of the things that makes the Made in Hawaii Festival so unique and important to our state is that it serves as a small business incubator. In recent years we have worked with the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) and the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) as Sponsors of the Festival. The support and partnership from HTDC and DBEDT has enables the hundreds of local businesses that are part of the Made in Hawaii Festival to connect with the vital resources available through these agencies. We have seen the benefits of these connections. Many Made in Hawaii Festival have utilized programs available through HTDC and DBEDT to grow and thrive.

We believe that this measure will help make the valuable resources and opportunities available through DBEDT available to even more local businesses. Supporting local businesses with State resources makes our economy more diverse and stronger for us all. We encourage the Committee to pass this measure, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

LATE

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 9:35AM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

RE: SB2354 Relating to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Aloha e Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 2354 (SB2354), which requires the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to make certain contact information for newly registered entities available online and transmit the contact information to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) Business Development and Support Division.

SB 2354 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Small Business. For the state to maximize the value of its investments in small business development and programming through DBEDT, the department must be able to engage in communication with these new small businesses. With information on new business registration existing within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, DBEDT is deprived of the ability to recognize these new businesses and reach out. Each one of these businesses exist as an opportunity to deploy state funded support for small businesses.

Our members recognize and appreciate the diverse small business resources that exist, within and outside of DBEDT, although dedicating time to researching and differentiating between these resources can be challenging, confusing, and time intensive. Time that a business owner might rather use tending to its operations. If newly registered businesses were identifiable and contactable by DBEDT, significant relief can be brought to the small business resource diligence process. With this information, DBEDT can be prescriptive with its resources, rather than rely on small businesses to conduct diligence and initiate outreach. Implementing SB 2354 would allow DBEDT to magnify its impact and increase access to its support resources, resources that a new business may have never pursued otherwise.



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII



It is for these reasons the Chamber supports SB 2354 and respectfully request its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

**LATE****LATE**

Mike Palmer, Chair – Ho'okipa Partners **Andy Huang, Past Chairman** – L&L Hawaiian Barbecue
Tambara Garrick, Treasurer – Hawaii Farm Project **Victor Lim, Government Relations Lead** – McDonald's
Address: 2909 Wai'ala'e Avenue #22, Honolulu, HI 96826

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Date: February 2, 2026

To: Sen. Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

From: Mike Palmer - Chairman

Subj: SB2354 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (Business registration contact info online bill)

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 4,000 Eating and Drinking place locations in Hawaii supports having the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs make contact information for registered entities available online and transferred to the Departments of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism Business Development and Support Division.

We believe that sharing this data between DCCA and other government departments and agencies can only help facilitate efficiency with businesses in Hawaii, including restaurants. Having this data readily available will help these government departments reach out to businesses with important information regarding programs, new laws, incentives, etc. that they may otherwise not learn about.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to share our comments.