



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the**  
**House Committee on Economic Development and Technology**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**  
**H.B. 2349, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Chair Ilagan and Members of the Committee:

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 sections<sup>1</sup> that require

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<sup>1</sup> 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 be 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."<sup>2</sup>
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.<sup>3</sup> 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" page<sup>4</sup> and its "Starting a Business" page.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Advisor*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 18, 2026

TIME: 9:30am

RE: HB2349 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 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.

**HB-2349**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:49:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT DIVISION**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
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**DANE K. WICKER**  
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**DENNIS T. LING**  
ADMINISTRATOR

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Statement of  
**DENNIS T. LING**  
Administrator

Business Development and Support Division  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of  
**HB2349**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS.**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Committee. The Business Development and Support Division (BDSD) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports **HB2349** and offers the following comments on this measure that 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.

BDSD 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. BDSD 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), BDSD has been able to share DBEDT 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 BDSB does not receive contact information up-front, for those who sign up on the DBEDT landing page to receive DBEDT information and the newsletter, BDSB may follow up and place interested parties on our mailing list.

BDSB 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.

BDSB 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.

**HB-2349**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:09:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Smart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2349.

This makes sense in the age of the internet.

Vote Yes and pass HB2349.

**HB-2349**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:51:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Duffy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Strongly support** this measure to improve coordination and transparency in the registration of newly formed businesses in Hawai‘i.

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. From family-owned shops in rural communities to new startups in urban Honolulu, entrepreneurs take great risks to build something meaningful in our state. Yet many new business owners are unaware of the state resources available to help them succeed.

This bill creates a simple but powerful solution: when a business registers with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, basic contact information will be made available online and transmitted to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism—unless the business chooses to opt out.

Rather than creating new bureaucracy, this bill simply ensures that state agencies communicate effectively and that small business owners are not left navigating complex systems alone.

In a state where starting a business is already challenging due to cost of living and regulatory burdens, we should make it easier—not harder—for entrepreneurs to access support.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill.

**HB-2349**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:19:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2349.

Gregory Misakian