

# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

*<http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt>*

Under the general direction of the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) plans, organizes, directs, and coordinates programs relating to statewide economic development; energy development and management; and research, economic analysis, and other support activities.

The **Office of Tourism Liaison** (OTL), a part of the Director's Office, serves as the Governor's liaison between the Administration and all tourism-related industries, committees, businesses, labor unions, and special interest groups. The Office provides high-level support and advice to the Governor in the areas of tourism marketing, management, and strategy, and represents the Governor in various capacities.

The core DBEDT functions are organized into five Divisions:

- Creative Industries Division
- Foreign-Trade Zone Division
- Research and Economic Analysis Division
- Strategic Industries Division
- Strategic Marketing and Support Division

## **Creative Industries Division**

The Creative Industries Division promotes the growth of, and works as a business advocate for, the film, video and digital media production industry and the diverse artistic and cultural resources of Hawaii by supporting and implementing programs, projects, and activities that result in: (1) an internationally recognized and self-sustaining cinema, television, and digital arts industry; and (2) an arts and culture industry that is a vibrant and sustainable sector of Hawaii's economy.

## **Foreign-Trade Zone Division**

The Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) Division oversees a statewide foreign-trade zone program of thirteen federally approved sites in three of Hawaii's four counties. The Division helps to expand and diversify the State's economic base by providing qualified Hawaii companies with ways to reduce their operating costs and thereby compete more effectively in foreign markets. The FTZ Division also operates a common-use, incubation-type facility at Pier 2, Honolulu Harbor, that is open to the importing and exporting public.

Foreign-Trade Zone No. 9 is operated as a public utility, making the various economic advantages of the Foreign-Trade Zone program available to all qualifying importing and exporting businesses, regardless of size or country of registration.

### **Research and Economic Analysis Division**

The Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) provides timely data, information, and analysis on economic, demographic, and related issues affecting Hawaii's people, consistent with statewide program objectives. The Division also coordinates Hawaii's participation in the U.S. Census and provides state-specific information. Overall, READ:

- Collects, compiles, interprets, and publishes information and statistical data on all aspects of the economy.
- Uses economic models, other analytical tools, and economic principles to provide insight, direction, and policy recommendations regarding the impact of economic forces and potential policy changes on the economy, as well as to make economic and population growth forecasts and projections.
- Maintains a statewide economic, business, and tourism statistics reporting system.

### **Strategic Industries Division**

The Strategic Industries Division (SID) supports statewide economic efficiency, productivity, development, and diversification by promoting, attracting, and facilitating the development of Hawaii-based industries which focus on the sustainable development of Hawaii's energy, environmental, ocean, physical, intellectual, and technological resources.

SID develops, plans, and conducts programs to encourage private and public partnerships for the sustainable commercial development of Hawaii's resources, focusing on technology- and resource-based industries that contribute to economic efficiency and diversification, and enable marketing overseas of Hawaii's expertise. Strategic industry development will be pursued with a high degree of leverage, with emphasis given to those industries with high potential for development success that capitalize on Hawaii's comparative advantages.

### **Strategic Marketing and Support Division**

The Strategic Marketing and Support Division (SMSD) promotes industry development and economic diversification by supporting existing and emerging industries through the attraction of new business, investment, and support services; increase in exports of Hawaii products and services; expansion of Hawaii's participation in global trade and commerce, and assistance to new entrepreneurs and community-based economic organizations.

## **Administrative Services Office**

The Administrative Services Office:

- Provides internal management, fiscal, budgetary, contractual, legislative, personnel, and information technology services in support of departmental programs and activities, and provides advice and assistance to the Director and staff in administrative matters.
- Coordinates the preparation and submittal of program and financial plans, budgets, and variance reports; processes the departmental payroll and fiscal and personnel transactions; and maintains payroll records.
- Maintains the Department's accounting records to be in conformity with applicable requirements, and reviews and processes the Department's receipts and expenditures transactions.
- Administers the departmental personnel program and provides advice and assistance in personnel management matters, including, but not limited to, recruitment, classification, compensation, training, employee relations, occupational safety and health, and employee benefits and services.
- Coordinates the formulation, preparation, compilation, and submittal of bills, resolutions, testimony, reports, and requested information to the Legislature, its members, committees, and staff. This includes the development and maintenance of a system of reviewing, analyzing, and monitoring legislative measures.
- Maintains the integrity of the communications links within the Department's local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN), as well as the numerous department servers; coordinates updating of web pages on the Department's Internet and Intranet websites; develops and produces multimedia-based CD-ROMs for various offices within the Department, which are then distributed or sold to the public at trade shows, conventions, and other venues; installs and repairs desktop computers and printers used by department staff; and assists in the configuration and ordering of new technology-related hardware and software.

### **ATTACHED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES**

## **Hawaii Tourism Authority**

The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA), established under chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is the state agency supporting Hawaii's most important industry. It is now independently operated and funded. It is responsible for:

- Tourism promotion, marketing, and development;
- Market research;
- Product development and diversification;
- Developing, promoting, and coordinating sports-related activities and events;
- Reducing barriers to travel;
- Conducting tourism education and information programs; and
- Monitoring and investigating complaints about the tourism industry.

HTA also has the responsibility of promoting, operating, managing, and maintaining the Hawaii Convention Center.

### **Aloha Tower Development Corporation**

The Aloha Tower Development Corporation, established under chapter 206J, Hawaii Revised Statutes, plans, initiates, and carries out actions necessary for the redevelopment of the Aloha Tower Complex, that area in downtown Honolulu on the waterfront, bounded by Piers 8, 9, 10, 11, and Nimitz Highway, including the Hale Awa Ku Moku Building and Irwin Memorial Park. The purpose of the undertaking is to strengthen the international economic base of the community in trade activities, to enhance the beautification of the waterfront, and in conjunction with the Department of Transportation, to better serve modern maritime uses and to provide for public access and use of the waterfront property.

### **Hawaii Community Development Authority**

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), established under chapter 206E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, plans and implements the timely redevelopment of Community Development Districts in urban areas throughout the State. HCDA undertakes long-range planning and implementation of improved community development by joining the strengths of private enterprise with public development to accomplish its objectives.

Kakaako was the first Community Development District to be redeveloped and revitalized. HCDA is also responsible for the Kalaehoa Community Development District formerly under the jurisdiction of the Barbers Point Naval Air Station Redevelopment Commission.

## **Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), established under chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, coordinates the finance, development, and management of housing and the delivery of housing and housing services to the State of Hawaii. HHFDC provides overall administration for development, construction, administration, and technical assistance to projects to increase housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households, and elderly and special needs groups. It also provides architectural and engineering review, inspection services, development tools, and financing assistance to eligible developers and contractors for the development, modernization, capital improvement, and repair and maintenance of existing facilities. HHFDC administers various housing financing programs, including the issuance of tax-exempt and taxable bonds, to finance mortgages and the construction and/or acquisition of rental housing projects.

## **Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation**

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC), established under chapter 211F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is the agency that promotes economic development and diversification in conjunction with private enterprise. The mission of HSDC is to provide venture capital funding and develop a sustainable venture capital industry in Hawaii that will stimulate the growth of new businesses.

## **High Technology Development Corporation**

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), established under chapter 206M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, facilitates the growth and development of the commercial high technology industry in Hawaii. The Corporation develops and manages technology parks, buildings, and programs, promotes and markets Hawaii as a site for commercial high technology activity, and provides business development assistance for start-up technology companies. To adapt to the changing needs of technology companies, HTDC also collects and analyzes information on the state of commercial high technology activity in Hawaii and provides advice on policy and planning for technology-based economic development.

## **Land Use Commission**

The objectives of the Land Use Commission (LUC) are to preserve, protect, and encourage the development of lands in the State for those uses to which they are best suited for the public welfare, through the implementation of the state land use law, chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

LUC processes, reviews, and acts on petitions for district boundary amendments which involve lands over fifteen acres in the state agricultural, rural, and urban districts, and all petitions for reclassification of lands in the conservation districts; reviews and acts on

applications for special permits in the agricultural and rural districts which are over fifteen acres; processes motions and boundary interpretation requests; and maintains, updates, and disseminates official state land use district maps and land use information.

### **Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA), established under chapter 227D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, brings economic development and diversification to the Hawaii community it serves. NELHA has developed the State's only ocean science and technology park on eight hundred seventy acres of prime coastal real estate in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii. NELHA markets and manages a unique complement of natural and logistical assets at its properties to attract tenants who can help build sustainable industries for Hawaii's future.

### **National Defense Center of Excellence for Research in Ocean Sciences**

The National Defense Center of Excellence for Research in Ocean Sciences (CEROS) is administered through DBEDT and NELHA. CEROS programs seek to identify leading edge, value-added technologies that support U.S. Department of Defense requirements and advance innovative concepts and new approaches to technology while fully leveraging existing facilities and infrastructure in Hawaii. CEROS-funded activities foster commercial development to help advance expanding technology-based industries.

### **Office of Planning**

The Office of Planning (OP), established under chapter 225M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, organizes, directs, coordinates, and reports on various activities as established by laws, policies, and rules. The functions of OP include:

- Land Use Planning -- developing and presenting the position of the State in all boundary change petitions and proceedings before the Land Use Commission, assisting state agencies in the development and submittal of petitions for land use district boundary amendments, and conducting periodic reviews of the classification and districting of all lands in the State.
- Coastal and Ocean Policy Management -- carrying out the lead agency responsibilities for the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program.
- Planning and Geographic Information System -- planning, developing, implementing and coordinating a statewide planning and geographic information system.
- Strategic Planning -- identifying and analyzing significant issues, problems, and opportunities confronting the State, and formulating strategies and alternative courses of action in response to identified problems and opportunities.

- Intergovernmental Coordination and Cooperation -- facilitating coordinated and cooperative planning and policy development and implementation activities among state agencies, and between the state, county, and federal governments.
- Comprehensive Planning Program Coordination -- formulating and articulating comprehensive statewide goals, objectives, policies, and priorities, and coordinating their implementation through the statewide planning system.

### **Small Business Regulatory Review Board**

The Small Business Regulatory Review Board, established under chapter 201M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, works with businesses and business organizations that are often unaware of proposed administrative rule changes. The Board reviews, analyzes, and comments on the business impact of all proposed rule amendments and new rules. It also reviews existing regulations based on concerns expressed by small businesses. The eleven members of the Board are appointed by the Governor with Senate consent.

