

## Small Business Regulatory Review Board

### MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Shick called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., with a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Jonathan Shick, Chair
- Mark Ritchie
- Robert Cundiff
- Nikki Ige
- Garth Yamanaka
- James (Kimo) Lee

**ABSENT MEMBERS:**

- Mary Albitz, Vice Chair
- Jennifer Salisbury
- Tessa Gomes
- Sanford Morioka,  
Second Vice Chair

**STAFF:** DBEDT

Jet'aime Ariola

Office of the Attorney General

Alison Kato

II. **APPROVAL of January 16, 2025 MINUTES**

Mr. Cundiff motioned to approve the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes, as is. Mr. Ritchie seconded the motion, and the Board members unanimously agreed.

III. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

A. Update on the Board's Upcoming Advocacy Activities and Programs in accordance with the Board's Powers under Section 201M-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)

1. Update on the Business Revitalization Taskforce's most recent meeting pursuant to Act 142 (Sessions Law Hawaii 2024, Senate Bill 2974 Relating to Economic Development, and Tourism establish a task force in order to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including the mitigations of regulatory tax burdens

Mr. Yamanaka stated that he attended the past two meetings of the taskforce that entailed an understanding of what its purview is and what steps are needed to accomplish the required goals. At the most recent meeting Permitted Interaction Groups (PIG) were formed. Mr. Yamanaka was placed in the Regulation group. The initial goal is to gather feedback from networks and businesses about what regulations are most impactful. A basic survey was created, and Mr. Yamanaka is asking board members to share it with their networks. Mr. Yamanaka is concerned about the time constraint but is still hoping to create a substantial report to Legislature.

Mr. Ritchie raises concerns about the accuracy and specificity of rankings used to evaluate Hawaii's business climate. He suggests the committee should delve deeper into understanding the metrics used by ranking entities like CNBC to determine Hawaii's 50<sup>th</sup> place ranking. Mr. Yamanaka emphasizes the need to identify specific metrics contributing to the low ranking and then develop strategies to improve them, rather than simply acknowledging the existing problem. Mr. Ritchie notes that focusing on specific metrics and developing strategies to address them would be more effective than general discussions.

Mr. Cundiff suggests using the boards website and email list to distribute the survey for feedback. He also discusses the role of the board in addressing this issue, considering if they need to expand the scope or resources. Mr. Cundiff highlights the existing role of the board in providing support for businesses facing regulatory issues and questions if there is an overlap in the work being done by the Permitted Interaction Groups (PIG).

Ms. Ige emphasizes the importance of identifying the real issues and focusing on solutions that address those issues, rather than pursuing general improvements. She adds that the focus needs to be on understanding the specific data and metrics used to rank states for business, as well as the underlying reasons behind those rankings. The survey mentioned aims to gather priorities and provide guidance on areas to focus on, Ms. Ige emphasizes the need to delve deeper and understand the reasons behind the rankings to ensure effective decision-making.

Mr. Yamanaka encourages board members to share any necessary information or questions and offers to share it with the taskforce Chair. He also invited any of the board members interested in attending the next meeting to let him know and he will request an invite.

2. Update and Discussion on Becker Communications, Inc., regarding the Board's Small Business Outreach

Ms. Ariola mentioned that the January 30, 2025 meeting was cancelled. She will reach out to Becker Communications, Inc. to see if a social media post can be created for all platforms to include the survey link mentioned by Mr. Yamanaka.

3. Presentations to Industry Associations

Ms. Ige is attending a Chamber Pau Hana at the Community College this month.

4. Staff's Small Business Outreach

Ms. Ariola has no update.

#### IV. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

##### A. Update on the following:

1. House Bill 1024 and Senate Bill 1343 SD1 – Relating to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board – Amends the quorum requirements to do business and validate acts of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board

There has been no activity on House Bill 1024. Senate Bill 1343 SD1 has been scheduled for decision making with the Judiciary Committee on February 20, 2025 at 10:01 a.m.

2. Governor’s Message 513 Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, James Lee, for a term to expire June 30, 2028

Mr. Lee indicated that Senator DeCoite’s office contacted him to schedule an interview.

3. Governor’s Message 514 Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jennifer Salisbury, for a term to expire June 30, 2028

There has been no activity on GM 514.

4. Governor’s Message 617 Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nicolle Ige, for a term to expire June 30, 2028

Ms. Ige indicated that Senator DeCoite’s office contacted her to schedule an interview.

**V. NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom and in Conference room 436 at No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel Street, Honolulu, HI 96813.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Ige motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Ritchie seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.