

## Small Business Regulatory Review Board

### MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Shick called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., with a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Jonathan Shick, Chair
- Sanford Morioka, Vice Chair
- Mary Albitz, Second Vice Chair
- Dr. Jennifer Salisbury
- Tessa Gomes
- David Sikkink
- Nicolle Ige
- Leelen Park
- Cynthia Hobson

**ABSENT MEMBERS:**

- James (Kimo) Lee

**STAFF:** DBEDT

Dane Wicker,  
Deputy Director  
Dori Palcovich  
Jet'aime Ariola

Office of the Attorney General

Alison Kato

### II. APPROVAL of FEBRUARY 19, 2026, MINUTES

Second Vice Chair Albitz motioned to approve the February 19, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Park seconded the motion and the Board members unanimously agreed.

### III. WELCOME REMARKS BY HONORABLE MAUI MAYOR RICHARD BISSEN, JR.

Chair Shick introduced DBEDT Deputy Director Mr. Dane Wicker, and honorable guest Maui Mayor Richard Bissen who thanked the members and his staff for assisting in preparing for this board meeting. He recognized that being in Maui is quite significant particularly because of the weather and rainy conditions.

As Lahaina and Kula are currently being rebuilt, the small businesses, who are the backbone of the economy, are a significant part of that recovery. He stated that this Board's role is to reduce barriers to be more efficient and more responsive to ultimately create more opportunities for all of Maui's local entrepreneurs, which is a shared goal.

Mayor Bissen read the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, small businesses form the backbone of Hawaii's economy, representing more than 90 percent of all businesses statewide and providing vital jobs, services and opportunities for families throughout Maui County; and  
WHEREAS, local entrepreneurs contribute to the strength and character of our communities by creating innovation, supporting local industries and helping sustain a resilient island economy; and  
WHEREAS, fostering a fair and balanced regulatory environment helps small businesses grow, compete and continue serving as an essential part of Hawaii's economic foundation; and  
WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii Small Business Regulatory Review Board works to ensure that the voices of small businesses are heard in the development and implementation of administrative rules that affect their operations; and  
WHEREAS, the Board's first neighbor-island meeting represents an important opportunity to engage directly with business owners and community leaders across Maui County and better understand the unique needs of neighbor-island entrepreneurs.  
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard T. Bissen, JR., Mayor of the County of Maui, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2026, as  
SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT DAY throughout Maui County and encourage residents, community leaders and business owners to recognize the vital role small businesses play in strengthening our local economy and supporting the well-being of our communities.  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the County of Maui to be affixed hereto.  
DONE at Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion and Action on the Small Business Impact Statement to Proposed New Temporary Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11 Chapter 60.1 Air Pollution Control, promulgated by Department of Health (DOH)

Discussion leader, Mr. Morioka asked Mr. Jack Yebba, Engineer at DOH's Clean Air Branch, to provide an overview of the proposed amendments. Mr. Yebba stated that there may be a slight impact on small businesses due to the rules updated field citation section. In this section, small businesses owning vehicles, that are either gasoline or diesel powered, and that are in violation of the rules, would be subject to the proposed new implementation of fines.

Another change that may impact small businesses relates to the rules' Open Burning provision. Thus, any small business that has an agricultural burning permit will be required to abide by when the "no burn" time-period is occurring.

The last change in the rules that may affect small businesses is the addition of a 20-day period for public access to information. Any person who has claimed confidentiality for records, reports, or other information and whose claim was denied by the DOH director may obtain administrative review and subsequent judicial review of the denial, provided that a written request is submitted to the director not later than twenty days after the denial.

Second Vice Chair Albitz moved to send the proposed rules to public hearing. Dr. Salisbury seconded the motion, and the members unanimously agreed.

## V. 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. Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) Task Force's most recent meeting pursuant to Act 133 to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expediate, and coordinate state and intergovernmental permit processes; and appropriates funds

Dr. Salisbury noted that SPEED taskforce is for 2 years with one of three sessions already completed, which occurred in January 2026 when the work of the taskforce was submitted to the legislature. The next scheduled meeting will be in May 2026 where three more permitted interaction groups will be established. Dr. Salisbury is intending to take part in all three groups, which will be completed in September.

Another three groups will be established which will run into January 2027. At that time, there will be a SPEED summit which will be a conference-type event that is expected to include all County mayors that will bring together all of the taskforce's work as a part of legislation for the 2027 legislative session.

2. Becker Communications Inc., regarding the Board's Small Business Outreach  
Becker Communications will be assisting DBEDT staff with a "post meeting" press release with updates on social media. We are pleased that Becker Representative, Ms. Jocelyn Collado, has joined us in Maui.
3. Presentation to Industry Associations  
Chair Shick announced that board member Dr. Salisbury was recently honored for the Pacific Business News' "Women Who Mean Business" award. Congratulations to Dr. Salisbury!

Ms. Ige noted that the Kauia Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an expo on housing on May 30<sup>th</sup>, which she will be attending.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce will be presenting "A Day at the Capitol." Chair Shick asked the Oahu members to try to attend this event.

4. Staff's Small Business Outreach

Tourism Day has been rescheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the State Capitol. Ms. Ariola is planning to attend this event as well as the "Day at the Capitol" event.

## VI. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

A. Update, Discussion and Action on the following legislative matters:

1. Senate Bill 2263 SD1 – Relating to Business Competitiveness – Establishes a goal for the State to achieve a ranking among the top 10 states in the nation for business competitiveness by 2045. Establishes a ranking metric and interim goals. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish a working group to develop and recommend policies that improve Hawaii’s business competitiveness. Requires annual reports to Legislature. Appropriates moneys.

This measure was voted on at the last meeting to support and provide testimony; it has not been moved within the legislature since February 12, 2026.

2. House Bill 1964 HD1 Relating to the State Building Code Council – Requires the State Building Code Council to provide annual training to state and county permitting agency employees. Appropriates funds for the training, subject to a matching requirement from the counties.

Dr. Salisbury motioned to support and provide testimony on House Bill 1964 HD1. Ms. Hobson seconded the motion, and the members unanimously agreed.

3. House Bill 1967 HD1 Relating to Permitting – Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop a permitting workforce pipeline in partnership with the University of Hawaii and community colleges and coordinate with state and county permitting agencies on certain tasks related to classification levels, salary and benefits, hiring and responsibilities of employees. Appropriates funds.

Ms. Ige motioned to support and provide testimony on House Bill 1967 HD1. Mr. Park seconded the motion, and the members unanimously agreed.

4. House Bill 2606 HD2 Relating to Off-Site Construction – Establishes a working group within the State Building Code Council to develop proposals for an off-site construction program. Appropriates funds.

Dr. Salisbury noted that this bill, along with prior bills, all came out of the SPEED taskforce’s permitted interaction groups. The purpose of this measure is to create an off-site workforce training site to create housing within Hawaii’s own workforce.

Chair Shick motioned to support and provide testimony on House Bill 2606 HD2. Mr. Park seconded the motion, and the members unanimously agreed.

B. Update on the following legislative matters:

1. House Bill 2603 HD1 – Relating to Permits – Establishes specific deadlines within the facilitated application process to obtain a permit and requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish certain resources and processes to help streamline permit applications.

Dr. Salisbury stated that this bill has to do with state-based permitting; there has been no movement on this measure since February 12<sup>th</sup>.

2. House Bill 1612 HD1 – Relating to Economic Development – Establishes a business competitiveness goal for the State to achieve a ranking of being in the top thirty states in the United States for business climate by 2045, with interim goals. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to submit annual reports on progress in meeting the business competitiveness goals. Appropriates funds.

This measure was deferred on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

3. Governor’s Message 612 – Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leelen Park, for a term to expire June 30, 2029

There is currently no update.

4. Governor’s Message 613 – Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Cynthia Hobson, for a term to expire June 30, 2029

There is currently no update.

5. Governor’s Message – Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Denver Coon, for a term to be determined

Second Vice Chair Albitz motioned to add the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Denver Coon to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board as a Gubernatorial Nominee. Dr. Salisbury seconded the motion and the Board members with a two-third vote; the motion passed.

Dr. Salisbury motioned to support and provide testimony for Mr. Denver Coon’s nomination for the consideration and confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. Second Vice Chair Albitz seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed.

**VII. NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom and in person at 250 South Hotel Street, No. 1 Capitol District Building, Room 436, Honolulu, HI 96813.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Ige motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Salisbury seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.