HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

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April 22, 2025

TO: Pearlene Sotelo, Committee Clerk
Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health

FROM: Councilmember Matt Weyer, Chair
Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health

RE: DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT RELATING TO THE REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Transmitted herewith for placement on an upcoming Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health agenda is a draft committee report relating to the Committee's review and evaluation of the Commission on Economic Revitalization pursuant to Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 3, Article 15 (Ordinance 17-44).

Please number this communication and upload it to HNLDOC.

Attachment

COUNCIL COM. 120

HSEH

Date

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health, to which was referred the review and evaluation of the Commission on Economic Revitalization ("Commission") pursuant to Chapter 3, Article 15, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), reports as follows:

The purpose of the review and evaluation is to determine whether the provision of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition) ("Charter") establishing the Commission should be retained, amended, or repealed. Ordinance 17-44 implements Charter Section 13-103.2, which mandates the periodic review and evaluation of certain City boards and commissions as provided by ordinance.

The Commission consists of nine members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, to staggered terms pursuant to Charter Section 13-103, with expertise in small business, finance, sustainable economics, and community development.

The Commission was established by Charter Section 6-109 (h) and has the following powers, duties, and functions:

- To prepare a five-year strategic plan that will include recommended strategies for the City to encourage equitable and sustainable economic advancement, development of new businesses and industries, and reinvestment.
- To update the five-year strategic plan every five years which will guide the City's economic investment strategy.
- To meet quarterly, unless deemed unnecessary by a majority of the commission members.

By Mayor's Message 16, dated January 30, 2025, through the Office of Economic Revitalization as the agency to which the Board is administratively attached, the Commission submitted to the Council a report on its accomplishments and activities, as required by ROH Section 3-15.4.

At your Committee's meeting on April 1, 2025, the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization ("OER") and the Chair of the Commission testified in favor of retaining the Commission, highlighting its valuable support of OER's mission and goals.

No public testimony was received on the matter.

Your Committee, after due consideration, makes the following findings:

- Pursuant to Resolution 20-197, FD1 and Charter Section 6-109, the Commission was created to prepare plans and recommend strategies for the City to encourage equitable and sustainable economic advancement, the development of new businesses and industries, and reinvestment.

- According to the City and County of Honolulu (O'ahu) 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy ("CEDS"), the Commission identified goals, objectives, and priority actions, as well as economic clusters where these strategies could be implemented.

- The Commission identified the Sunshine Law as an obstacle to their work, but still managed to formally adopt the CEDS as a strategic plan to guide their work.

- To ensure transparency the Commission posts timely meeting agendas, detailed meeting minutes, complete meeting materials and presentations, and live-streams of bi-monthly meetings which are posted online or shortly thereafter.

- The Commission on Economic Revitalization ensures responsiveness to inquiries and comments from the Mayor, the City Council, and the public by having its Chair and/or Vice-Chair reply to inquiries promptly.

- The Commission's costs of operation are minimal. Funds are used to provide light refreshments when Commission meetings are held during the lunch hour.

- The Commission has not recommended any changes to Charter Section 6-109.

Based on the foregoing, your Committee recommends that the Commission on Economic Revitalization be retained without change, amendment, or repeal.

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health recommends that this Committee Report be scheduled for a public hearing and be adopted by the Council as the Council's determination on the review and evaluation of the Commission on Economic Revitalization. (Ayes: ; Ayes with reservations: ; Noes: ; Absent: .)

Respectfully submitted,

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Committee Chair