

STARTING A BUSINESS

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (DBEDT)

manages incentives and advantages offered by the State of Hawaii to U.S. and international companies seeking to start a business in the state. These include a streamlined business registration process, a variety of tax credits, and subsidies and exemptions available to small businesses, high technology companies and the film industry. DBEDT also provides information on workforce development, investing and partnering, patents, copyright & trademarks and a wealth of statistical data.

DBEDT

P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 S. Hotel Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph: (808) 586-2423
Fax: (808) 587-2790
email: library@dbedt.hawaii.gov
www3.hawaii.gov/dbedt

THE BUSINESS ACTION CENTER

(BAC) helps Hawaii's entrepreneurs begin their small businesses with information and forms for obtaining a general excise tax license, registering a trade name and employer registration, various required permits, counseling and workshops offered by other agencies, alternative financing programs, government procurement and more.

BUSINESS ACTION CENTER

1130 North Nimitz Highway
Second Level, Suite A-220
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Open M-F: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
Phone: (808) 586-2545
Kauai - 274-3141
email: bac@dcca.hawaii.gov
www.hawaii.gov/dcca/quicklinks/bac

THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA)

oversees a business information website intended to provide business audiences with information about meetings, conventions, and business development in the islands. The site contains content from key public and private sector entities.

HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

Hawaii Convention Center
1801 Kalakaua Avenue

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Ph: (808) 973-2255
Fax: (808) 973-2253
www.hawaii.gov/tourism

LABOR AND OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION HAWAII (LOIHI)

provides information that can help with research, business planning, job search, and career decisions. Subjects covered include wages, employment, unemployment, work injuries and illnesses, occupational information, job search, labor market information, career information, education and training.

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS OFFICE

Princess Keelikolani Bldg.
830 Punchbowl Street #304
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: (808) 586-8999
Fax: (808) 586-9022
email: dlir.research@hawaii.gov
www.hawaii.gov/labor/rs

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (UHERO) ECONOMIC INFORMATION SERVICE (EIS)

is a community-sponsored research program of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The EIS provides the Hawaii community with information on economic, demographic, and business trends in the state and the Asia-Pacific region. Under the service, UHERO provides a menu of forecast reports and varying levels of access to the UHERO EIS Online Database.
www.uhero.hawaii.edu

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (SBA)

• Free counseling to aspiring entrepreneurs as well as small business veterans is available through the Business Information and Counseling Center (BICC), the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). Both SCORE and the SBDCs offer regular workshops and seminars at little or no cost to prospective small business owners.

• Financial assistance, including SBA loans, for new or existing businesses working with area banks.

• Assistance to businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals is available through the Minority Enterprise

Development Program.

• International trade assistance is available through a special loan program called the Export Working Capital Guarantee Program, and International Trade Counselors are available to help small business owners with their export plans.

• A Women's Business Center is available to help women start and grow their own businesses; and SBA sponsors numerous programs with private and public sector organizations to assist female entrepreneurs.

• A Veterans Affairs Officer is available to counsel veterans who want to start their own business.

Hawaii District Office

300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 2-235
Box 50207 Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone (808) 541-2990
Fax (808) 541-2976
www.sba.gov/hi/

Business Startup Guide:

www.sba.gov/starting_business/startup/guide.html

County of Kauai

Office of Economic Development
Online "How to Start a Small Business on Kauai" booklet.
www.kauai.gov/oed

HAWAII'S TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES

Hawaii has only two levels of government taxation: state and local.

- No personal property tax
- No tax on inventories, furniture, equipment or machinery
- Credit against taxes paid on the purchase of capital goods, machinery, and equipment
- No state tax on goods manufactured for export
- No stock transfer tax (all security exchange transactions are exempt from general excise tax, as an incentive to financial institutions)
- No unincorporated business tax. Banks and financial institutions pay only one business tax
- Manufactured products or those produced for export are exempt from the general excise tax, including custom computer software.

Source: Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism