

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK VICE CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR.

Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture 10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a meeting for **Monday**, **March 10**, **2025**, **at 10:00 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix**, Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following:

BLOCK I

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources will provide a comprehensive update on its operations, regulatory responsibilities, and ongoing efforts to manage and protect the Virgin Islands' natural, cultural, and historical resources.

Key highlights will include staffing challenges, enforcement capabilities, concerns over potential loss of federal funding, updates on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's conservation and regulatory programs, ongoing environmental protection initiatives, the status of coastal development projects under the Division of Coastal Zone Management, and current efforts in historic preservation and compliance enforcement.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources

BLOCK II

The Virgin Islands Port Authority will present an overview of its operational performance, infrastructure development projects, and efforts to improve air and seaport facilities throughout the territory.

Key highlights will include a review of VIPA's 2024 Year-End Report, progress on airport modernization projects at Henry E. Rohlsen Airport and Cyril E. King Airport, updates on the \$230 million CEKA terminal expansion and \$140 million HERA improvements, seaport dredging plans for Charlotte Amalie Harbor, and discussions on coordination between VIPA and WICO to optimize operations and minimize redundancies.

Invited Testifier:

Carlton Dowe, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority

BLOCK III

The Office of Cannabis Regulation will provide an update on the agency's progress in implementing the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act and regulating the territory's emerging cannabis industry.

Key highlights will include the status of cannabis regulations, timelines for business licensing applications, updates on the track-and-trace system partnership with Metrc, staffing levels and hiring plans, public outreach initiatives for entrepreneurs, and plans for upcoming community engagement sessions.

Invited Testifier:

Joanne Moorehead, Executive Director, Office of Cannabis Regulation

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

THURSDAY, **MARCH 13, 2025**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

FRIDAY,

MARCH 14, 2025

PRESIDENT: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS

Girl Scouts Mock Session 10:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

MONDAY,

MARCH 17, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

TUESDAY,

MARCH 18, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR. VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

BLOCK I

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the following lease agreements:

Bill No. 36-0028

An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Tropical Marine, Inc., for Parcel No. 37-1 Estate Nadir, No. 2 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and a portion of unsurveyed Estate Nadir, No. 2 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement **Mr. Vincent Richards,** Assistant Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement **Ms. Carmen Ruan,** President, Tropical Marine, Inc.

Bill No. <u>36-0040</u>

An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Charles M. Kim V.I. Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Virgin Islands Museum of Art, for a portion of Lot No. 48b Norre Gade, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement **Mr. Vincent Richards**, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement **Mr. Jason Charles**, Representative

BLOCK II

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will also receive testimony on the following bills:

Bill No. <u>36-0008</u>

An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 2, chapter 89, subchapter I, section 2494 requiring the Lieutenant Governor to offset a property owner's property tax liability against any amount of money that the Government of the Virgin Islands owes to the property owner

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Julio Rhymer Sr., Director, Office of Management and Budget

Mr. Joel Lee, Director, VI Bureau of Internal Revenue

Mr. Brent Leerdam, Tax Collector, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Bill No. 36-0023 An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 4, section 72 relating to the highway user

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Kevin McCurdy, Commissioner, VI Department of Finance Honorable Derek A. Gabriel, Commissioner, VI Department of Public Works

Mr. Joel Lee, Director, VI Bureau of Internal Revenue

Bill No. 36-0038 An Act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, subchapter III, section 551, subsection (a) by increasing the limit for outstanding bonds for the Virgin Islands Port Authority from \$100

million to \$500 million

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Carlton Dowe, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority **Mr. Willard John,** Chairman, VI Port Authority Board of Directors

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

THURSDAY,

MARCH 20, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

FRIDAY,

MARCH 21, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved