



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE

AGENDA

Monday, June 9, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

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REVISED

BLOCK I – 10:00 AM

Discussion on Economic Development and Self-Sustainability in the U.S. Virgin Islands

This block will explore ongoing efforts and future strategies to strengthen the Virgin Islands economy and advance toward greater self-sufficiency. The discussion will highlight the roles of key agencies—including the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority and the Bureau of Economic Research—in guiding policy development, monitoring economic trends, and supporting sustainable growth. Topics may include recent data-driven insights, progress on long-term economic plans, support for small business development, investment promotion, workforce initiatives, and efforts to build a more resilient and diversified local economy.

Invited Testifiers:

- Mr. Wayne Biggs, Jr., Executive Director, Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority
- Ms. Bernesha Liburd, Supervisor, Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research

LUNCH BREAK

BLOCK II

Bill No. 36-0065, An Act amending Act No. 8512 by removing the responsibility of the Virgin Islands Port Authority from constructing a warehouse on the former Addelita Cancryn Junior High School campus to requiring the Port Authority to assist with the design, retrofitting and renovation of an existing warehouse located on Parcel No. 1B and 47B-1 Gasverks Gade, No. 3 Crown Prince Quarter, St. Thomas *Sponsored by Senator Kurt A. Vialet*

The Committee will receive testimony on the proposed legislative amendment, including its potential impact on project implementation, inter-agency coordination, and overall cost-efficiency.

Invited Testifiers:

- Mr. Carlton Dowe, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority
- Mr. Craig Benjamin, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance
- Hon. Dionne Wells-Hedrington, EdD, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Hon. Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement