



# COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE

## AGENDA

### REVISED

#### MEMBERS

**Senator Hubert L. Frederick**  
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**TO:** Members, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture

The Honorable Senator Angel L. Bolques, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Marvin A. Blyden  
The Honorable Senator Alma Francis Heyliger  
The Honorable Senator Marise C. James, Esq.  
The Honorable Senator Franklin D. Johnson  
The Honorable Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.

**FROM:** The Honorable Senator Hubert L. Frederick  
Chairman, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture

**DATE:** March 30, 2026

**RE:** April 10, 2026 - Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture Hearing

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a hearing for **Friday, April 10, 2026**, at 10:00 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix, Virgin Islands to provide testimony on the following:

#### **BLOCK I – 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM**

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture will convene a hearing focused on Sustainable Economic Development to receive testimony from government agencies, authorities, and institutional partners regarding policies, programs, and initiatives that support long-term economic growth in the Virgin Islands. In light of the approximately \$25 billion in federal awards secured by the Territory, the hearing will examine how these resources are being translated into meaningful opportunity and measurable outcomes. The Committee will assess cross-sector coordination related to land use and planning, workforce development, housing availability, infrastructure financing, innovation and research, disaster recovery, agriculture, tourism, and data-driven economic analysis, with particular attention to actions being taken to maximize the impact of these investments across communities, government agencies, for-profit enterprises, and nonprofit organizations.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

- Honorable Jeniffer Matarangas-King, Commissioner VI Department of Tourism



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## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE

- Wayne L. Biggs, Jr., Chief Executive Officer  
VI Economic Development Authority
- Dr. Haldane Davies, Director  
Bureau of Economic Research
- Eric Sonnier, Director  
UVI Research & Technology Park
- Dwayne Alexander, Director  
VI Housing Authority

### LUNCH BREAK - 12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM

### BLOCK II - 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Continuation of testimony from government agencies, authorities, and institutional partners regarding sustainable economic development initiatives in the Virgin Islands. Testimony will further examine implementation and execution of programs supported by federal funding, including how approximately \$25 billion in federal awards are being coordinated, deployed, and leveraged to maximize impact across communities, government agencies, for-profit enterprises, and nonprofit organizations. Discussion will also address cross-sector collaboration related to land use and planning, workforce development, housing availability, infrastructure financing, innovation and research, disaster recovery, agriculture, tourism, and data-driven economic analysis.

### Invited Testifiers:

- Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner  
VI Department of Planning & Natural Resources
- Honorable Dr. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., Commissioner  
VI Department of Agriculture
- Honorable Gary A. Molloy, Commissioner  
VI Department of Labor
- Dr. Safiya George, President  
University of the Virgin Islands

Cc: All Senators  
All Chiefs of Staff  
All Divisions  
Public Affairs