



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE

AGENDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture

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

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

DATE: June 5, 2026

RE: June 15, 2026 - Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture Meeting

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a meeting for Monday, June 15, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix, Virgin Islands to provide testimony on the following:

BLOCK I – 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM

The Committee will receive testimony from the Department of Tourism regarding the impact of the loss of Spirit Airlines service to the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the effect on airlift capacity, tourism, residents, business travel, and the Territory's economy. Testimony will also address efforts being undertaken to maintain and expand air service to the Territory, attract new or expanded services from other airlines, and ensure reliable and affordable transportation options for residents and visitors. Additionally, the Committee will examine discussions with domestic and international carriers regarding opportunities to replace lost airlift capacity, increase route availability, and strengthen long-term air transportation access to and from the Territory. The Department will also provide an update on preparations for the 2026 St. John Celebration, including marketing and promotional efforts, anticipated visitor arrivals, transportation and logistical planning, and initiatives designed to maximize the economic and tourism benefits associated with the annual festival.

Invited Testifiers:

- Honorable Jeniffer Matarangas-King, Commissioner Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

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BLOCK II - 11:00 AM TO 12:30 PM

The Committee will receive testimony related to *Bill No. 36-0285, an Act amending Title 3, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 19, to establish the Virgin Islands Hall of Fame Registry within the Department of Tourism. Sponsored by Senator Hubert L. Frederick.*

Invited Testifiers:

- Honorable Jeniffer Matarangas-King, Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
- Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- Honorable Victor Somme, III, Assistant Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education

LUNCH BREAK - 12:30 PM TO 1:00 PM

BLOCK III - 1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM

The Committee will receive testimony related to *Bill No. 36-0087, an Act amending Title 7, Virgin Islands Code, by adding Chapter 16 to require the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture to establish and manage a 30-acre orchard on St. Croix. Sponsored by Senator Marise C. James*

Invited Testifiers:

- Honorable Dr. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Usman Adamu, Dean and Director
University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture
- Dale Brown, Owner
Sejah Farm, VI
- Sommer Sibily-Brown, Founder and Executive Director
Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition

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