



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE

AGENDA

MEMORANDUM

MEMBERS

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Senator Clifford A. Joseph
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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: October 2, 2026

RE: **October 13, 2026 - Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture Meeting**

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a hearing for Tuesday, October 13, 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 will receive testimony regarding the current economic conditions and outlook of the U.S. Virgin Islands, with a focus on economic growth, employment and workforce trends, business development and investment, access to capital, cost of living, population trends, and opportunities for continued economic development and diversification. Testifiers will also provide information on workforce availability and training, business growth and retention, jobs created or retained, and key challenges affecting the Territory's economy.

Invited Testifiers:

- Honorable Dr. Gary Molloy, Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Labor
- Dr. Haldane Davies, Director
Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research
- Mr. Wayne Biggs, Jr., CEO
Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority

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

BLOCK II – 12:30PM TO 2:30PM

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The Committee will receive testimony regarding the status and implementation of the Virgin Islands Territorial Agriculture Plan, with a focus on progress made since the Plan was completed in 2021, annual reviews, goals and recommendations that remain outstanding, and the five-year review and recommendations due in 2026. Testifiers will also provide information on challenges affecting implementation, local food production, food security, farmer support, market access, agricultural infrastructure, funding needs, and priorities and recommendations for strengthening the Territory's agricultural sector over the next five years.

Invited Testifiers:

- Honorable Dr. Louis Petersen, Commissioner,
Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Safiya George, Co-Chair
Virgin Islands Local Food and Farm Council

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