

Hawai'i Small Business Development Center O'ahu Center Newsletter

A Better Way to Help Hawaii's Unemployed

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

Hawaii's unemployment insurance system is in crisis, with stalled payments, rampant fraud and massive debt leading to higher taxes. Is there a better way to help the unemployed - and Hawaii's businesses that pay the taxes?

Yes, says international economist Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a nationally syndicated columnist, who on Dec. 7, 2020, was the featured guest on Keli'i Akina's "Hawai'i Together" program on the ThinkTech Hawaii network. In the interview, de Rugy told Akina, president of the Grassroot Institute of Hawai'i, that rather than triple Hawaii's unemployment insurance tax rate to compensate for the fund's deficit, "What I would favor is to just dismantle the whole system...and move to...a system of private accounts."

That would be politically difficult, she acknowledged, but said such systems have been adopted successfully throughout the world. Each is little different, but the principle is the same: The employer and employee each pay into a fund that ultimately belongs to the employee, who would have an

Dear Andra,

Welcome to the 2021 First Quarter newsletter of the Hawai'i Small Business Development Center, O'ahu office. In this issue, read about a creative solution to our unemployment system crisis, check out the ASBDC Annual Report, and learn marabout the DBEDT CBED Loan Program.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

Remember to sign up for upcoming business events in the Calendar section. I hope you find this issue valuable and welcome your comments.

[Like us on Facebook](#), recommend us on [Yelp!](#), see our [YouTube channel](#), and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Joseph Burns

Hawai'i Small Business Development Center
Director, O'ahu

[Click here for Official Federal Resources for Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19](#)

America's SBDC 2021 Annual Report Now Available Online



Serving more than half a million small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs in Fiscal Year 2020, America's Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) rose to the challenge during a time of unprecedented challenges.

incentive to not deplete it. It also would be portable, and available on retirement, if not already used. De Ruggy speculated that private insurance companies would emerge to cover people who work for themselves, as they already have for Uber drivers and other similar independent contractors.

A helpful article for background is one she wrote for the Mercatus Institute in April, 2020, "[A Timely Redux for Personal Unemployment Insurance Savings Accounts](#)," in which she proposed specific policy reforms to deal with the flaws in the current unemployment insurance system.

De Ruggy's primary research interests include the U.S. economy, the federal budget, taxation, tax competition and financial privacy. She has testified numerous times in front of Congress on the effects of fiscal stimulus, debt and deficits, and regulation on the economy.

She received her master's degree in economics from the Paris Dauphine University in France and her Ph.D. in economics from the Pantheon-Sorbonne University, also in France.

You can view the interview here:

<https://thinktechhawaii.com/a-better-way-to-help-hawaiis-unemployed-hawaii-together/>

Republished with the permission of the [Grassroot Institute of Hawai'i, December 8, 2020](#)

Contact Us

[About Us](#)

[Business Events Calendar](#)

info@hisbdc.org

[\(808\) 945-1430](tel:(808)945-1430)

Advisors to

From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, America's SBDCs were on the job. Providing free, one-to-one business advising and free or at-cost business training, SBDC advisors, trainers and staff helped America's small businesses - and the communities they serve - adapt and survive.

The America's SBDC Annual Report showcases the work of the 62 state and regional SBDCs that form America's nationwide network of SBDCs.

[Click here to access the SBDC Annual Report](#)

Participate in the Stanford University Lean Launchpad Project

It's no secret that food & beverage and retail have been among the two hardest-hit industries during COVID-19. A group of Stanford MBA students working to help businesses in these industries wants to hear your stories from the front lines. So whether you have pivoted your operations, responded to changing local regulations, or are simply overwhelmed with trying to navigate next steps going into 2021, they would love to hear your story. Moreover, your input will directly shape a new online community platform for food & beverage and brick-and-mortar retail owners under development. What's more: contributors will be granted exclusive early access to this Stanford SMB community platform once it launches. Please contact if they are open to setting up a short call with the team.



team_sembi_llp@lists.stanford.edu



CBED Loan Now Available from DBEDT

The Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) Community-based Economic Development (CBED) program provides training and capacity building opportunities to promote, support, and invest in community-based development projects that result in measurable economic impact.

CBED offers loans to eligible small businesses that support economic development in their communities. The CBED Revolving Loan Fund, sometimes in cooperation with co-lenders, offers loans from \$25,000 to \$200,000 to support a broad range of small businesses including agricultural producers and processors and manufacturing businesses.

Loans may be used for: Start-up costs and working capital; Construction or improvement of facilities; Purchase of equipment; Payment of production and marketing expenses including materials, labor and services. Loan terms can be up to 10 years with a simple interest rate as low as 3% per annum. For more information go to:

Hawaii's Business

"Drive the Economic Sustainability of Hawai'i by Assisting Businesses to Form, Grow and Thrive"

<https://invest.hawaii.gov/business/cbed/>

Calendar - Sign Up Now

[02/10/2021: How to Create a Winning Website](#)

[02/18/2022: Business Valuation and Analyzing Financial Statements in the Pandemic Economy](#)

[02/24/2021: How to Start a Small Business class](#)



In the Media

[SBDC Day March 17, 2021](#)

[Powering Through Tough Times](#)

[Insight on Small Business Access to PPP Loans](#)



Quote of the Quarter:

"Opportunities do not come with their values stamped upon them."

-Maltbie Babcock



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
HILO



Hawai'i SBDC Network, Manoa Innovation Center, 2800 Woodlawn Drive,
Suite VIP, Honolulu, HI 96822

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by andra.tejerogaspar@hisbdc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!