



Parliament of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 6 of 2026-2027

Motion to enhance participation of Small and Micro Businesses in Public Procurement

WHEREAS the Procurement Act (2023 Revision) establishes the framework for public procurement in the Cayman Islands, grounded in the principles of fairness, transparency, competition and value for money;

AND WHEREAS the Procurement Regulations (2022 Revision) provide for the application of “economic development preference” and require consideration of local impact in certain procurements;

AND WHEREAS such provisions are discretionary in nature and do not mandate structured participation or access for small and micro businesses within public procurement processes;

AND WHEREAS the Trade and Business Licensing Act (2026 Revision) includes a statutory definition of a “small business” and “micro business”, there is currently no statutory definition of a “small business” and “micro business” within the procurement framework aligned with modern international standards;

AND WHEREAS international best practice, included in jurisdictions such as Jamaica, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States of America, incorporates specific measures to facilitate the participation of small and medium enterprises in public procurement, including contract lotting requirements, supplier diversity policies, set-asides or participation targets, and evaluation criteria that formally weigh local economic impact;

AND WHEREAS small and micro businesses are critical drivers of employment, innovation, and economic resilience within the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS barriers to entry in public procurement - particularly contract size, administrative burden, and lack of structured access - disproportionately impact small and micro businesses;

AND WHEREAS enhancing participation of local small and micro businesses in public procurement will strengthen domestic economic development, improve wealth distribution, and build national capacity.

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that Government considers amending the Procurement Act and/or Regulations to introduce a clear and modern definition of “small” and “micro” businesses, aligned with internationally recognised standards and adapted to the Cayman Islands economy, within six months;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government considers amending the Procurement Regulations to introduce a local supplier preference mechanism, allowing for a defined evaluation margin in favour of qualifying Cayman Islands small and micro businesses, consistent with the principles of fairness and value for money, and streamlined procurement processes for low- and medium-value contracts to reduce administrative burdens and improve accessibility for small and micro businesses.

Moved By: Hon. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for George Town North

Seconded By: Mr. A. Royston Tatum, JP, MP
Elected Member for Red Bay

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 1st day of June, 2026.

Passed by the Parliament of the Cayman Islands this 24th day of June, 2026.

Clerk of the Parliament