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Bryan, VIPCA Lay Groundwork for Marine Sector Growth, Blue Economy Investment

Governor Bryan met with VIPCA leadership to advance tax relief measures, marine infrastructure projects, and vocational training programs aimed at strengthening the charter yacht industry and expanding the USVI's role in the regional blue economy.

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In a focused strategy session held earlier this week, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. met with the leadership of the Virgin Islands Professional Charter Yacht Association (VIPCA) to advance a comprehensive vision for revitalizing the territory's marine sector and expanding its footprint in the blue economy, Government House has announced.

The meeting brought together longtime maritime advocate Oriel Blake and VIPCA's newly appointed Executive Director Kenan Cummings, who joined Governor Bryan to discuss ways to strengthen the charter yacht industry, increase access to mooring infrastructure, and grow marine-focused workforce development initiatives.

A key point of discussion was the governor's full backing of the Marine Charter Business Revitalization Act, which proposes significant tax relief for charter and day yacht operators over a 10-year period. The act would cut gross receipts tax to 2.5%, reduce income tax liabilities by 50%, and offer targeted fuel concessions. These incentives are designed to support both existing marine operators and attract new marine-based businesses to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Governor Bryan also shared plans to enhance infrastructure critical to the marine tourism economy. These improvements include expanded mooring field access, the development of sail-up and swim-up beaches, and increased beachfront dining and amenities across the territory. A portion of the Department of Tourism's budget will also be earmarked for promoting marine experiences—such as charter yachts, scuba diving, sportfishing, and other ocean-based tourism.

Workforce development was another area of priority. The meeting included discussion on expanding mooring projects and growing marine vocational training programs to ensure Virgin Islanders can fully participate in and benefit from this growing economic sector.

“These initiatives support our broader Vision 2040 goals, reinforcing our commitment to building a vibrant, resilient, and environmentally responsible blue economy,” Governor Bryan stated. “We are proud to continue working with VIPCA to ensure the Virgin Islands remains the region's premier destination for yachting and marine adventure.”

The meeting highlighted the territory's ongoing effort to leverage its maritime assets to drive sustainable economic development, with Governor Bryan reaffirming that the marine industry remains central to his administration's long-term vision.