



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

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December 23, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members
of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) is providing information regarding the Hawaii 3Ts School Technology Laboratories Fund, as required by HRS 201-16, and Chapter 302A-1314.

In correspondence with the Economic Development Alliance of Hawai'i (EDAH), we note that there have been no appropriations into the fund since 2009. Requests for reporting on was done in 2023 through outreach to Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) on behalf of EDAH to provide any past and current reports relevant to expenditure of funds, funds received and programs supported.

In summary, reports have been provided to DBEDT and transmitted to the Legislature for years 2008-2010 through DBEDT's Science and Technology branch, and years 2011, 2012 through Creative Industries Division (CID). CID was requested to oversee the reporting due to the reduction in force which affected the S&T branch positions.

While Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education investments and program expansions have continued across the state with the organizations members, no formal reporting has been received since 2012.

We note that all islands and their respective economic development organizations continued to bring significant federal, state, county, and private funding to support on every island across the state, working in partnership with the other county Boards that comprise EDAH.

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In light of the elimination of the Science and Technology branch in the department, we request your consideration to amend HRS 201-16, Chapter 302A-1314 (n) and (r) to replace DBEDT with EDAH as the required reporting entity.

Sincerely,



James Kunane Tokioka
DBEDT Director

Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau

ec: Governor's Policy Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Legislative Auditor
Department of Budget and Finance