

JAN 24 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology)
2 project originated in Arkansas in 1995 and was the result of a
3 close collaboration between industry, school districts,
4 community organizations, and institutions of higher learning.
5 The components for schools participating in the project EAST
6 program include:

- 7 (1) Involving business partners to provide technology to
8 rural areas through industry donations of hardware,
9 software, and technical assistance;
- 10 (2) Partnering the business sector with school districts
11 and universities to develop and implement high
12 technology curriculum and methodology for kindergarten
13 to sixteen year-old students;
- 14 (3) Creating and implementing confidence-building
15 curricula steeped in emerging technologies so that
16 students can become life-long thinkers, learners, and



1 problem solvers, regardless of their socio-economic
2 backgrounds or prior academic achievements; and
3 (4) Creating an effective program from which students can
4 use the latest hardware and software applications to
5 apply to real world applications through the execution
6 and proficiency in computer aided design,
7 visualization, computer generated animation, database
8 design, webpage design, programming, office
9 automation, global positioning systems, and
10 geographical information systems.

11 During the 2000-2001 academic year, two of Maui's most
12 technically-challenged high schools adopted EAST programs.
13 Within one year, Lahainaluna High School went from being ranked
14 as one of the least technologically proficient schools in the
15 State, to being named the best EAST project nationwide. Since
16 then, Maui has added EAST programs in several schools with
17 outstanding results. Project EAST is currently in eight schools
18 throughout the State - five on Maui and one on Molokai, Kauai
19 (Aloha 'Ike Program), and the Big Island. Oahu schools have
20 shown great interest in adopting and establishing EAST programs
21 in its curriculum. Currently four Oahu pre-EAST schools have
22 strong robotics programs, LEGO leagues, and botballs.



1 The cost of each EAST program is approximately \$100,000 per
2 school (not counting direct costs of technology equipment and
3 supplies, which are generally donated by business partners).
4 The benefits of student achievement in technology expertise far
5 outweigh the costs per individual school. The Women in
6 Technology Project has endorsed and joined forces with project
7 EAST schools because the program offers the kind of science,
8 technology, engineering, and math learning environments that are
9 needed for girls to remain interested in science- and math-
10 related careers.

11 Women in Technology organizes a series of career days and
12 special events every year on intermediate, high school, and
13 college campuses to introduce project-based learning with
14 participation by project EAST students and teachers. Science
15 Day at the Capitol has been held for the past four years and
16 features project EAST school presentations, educates
17 legislators, businesses, and academia, and features department
18 of education teachers and project EAST trainers.

19 Each year, the Women in Technology program organizes and
20 pays for department of education professionals to complete
21 project EAST training. Currently the department of education



1 does not pay the annual license fee for project EAST programs,
2 which is approximately \$4,000 for each project EAST school.

3 In 2004, the legislature established the Hawaii 3Ts school
4 technology laboratories fund under Act 218, Session Laws of
5 Hawaii 2004. The 3Ts fund was modeled after the Hawaii 3R's
6 school repair and maintenance fund established in 2001 for
7 Hawaii public schools to meet the formidable backlog of repair
8 and maintenance of its facilities. Act 218 supports potentially
9 successful private-public economic initiatives by establishing
10 the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund outside of
11 the state treasury for the continuation and expansion of the
12 project EAST initiatives or similar programs on all islands.

13 Approximately two hundred seventy students have enrolled in
14 project EAST programs over the past four years of project EAST's
15 existence in Hawaii with the endorsement and assistance from the
16 Women in Technology program. Project EAST's influence has
17 touched at least two thousand five hundred students statewide by
18 stimulating new interest through its attendance and
19 participation at science and technology events, such as
20 robotics, LEGO league, academic decathlon, regional and national
21 competitions, and positive press.



1 Eighty per cent of project EAST students are pursuing
2 higher educational high technology directions. Furthermore,
3 within the past four years of the program's development,
4 approximately seventy-five per cent of the technical and non-
5 technical jobs on Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island can be
6 directly attributable to project EAST. This percentage will
7 increase exponentially as the project expands on Oahu.

8 Project EAST and its influence continues to make an impact
9 on education in Hawaii. The Ho'ike Technology Foundation
10 challenge grant of \$50,000 is expected to generate more private
11 sector interest and program participation for schools on Oahu.
12 Programs are tentatively projected for Oahu high schools with
13 feeder middle and elementary schools that are heavily involved
14 in robotics training. Furthermore, two major national forums
15 are taking place in Honolulu in 2007: the National Botball
16 Symposium in April 2007 and the National Conference on Education
17 Robotics in July, 2007. The July conference is expected to
18 attract thousands of interested individuals.

19 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds into the
20 Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund for the purpose
21 of expanding project EAST programs to Oahu, and growing project
22 EAST programs on the neighbor islands.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for
 4 deposit into the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund
 5 established pursuant to section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised
 6 Statutes; provided that no funds shall be expended unless
 7 matching funds are provided.

8 The Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund shall be
 9 administered by Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.,
 10 in accordance with section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
 11 or in partnership with county economic development boards for
 12 the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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Report Title:

Project EAST; Technology Training; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds into the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund for the economic development alliance of Hawaii to expand project EAST programs to public schools.

