



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

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Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 2020 HD1**  
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Committee members:

The department supports the intent of HB 2020 HD1, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We note, however, that this appropriation was not included in the Executive's Supplemental Budget, and request that this appropriation not displace the priorities contained in that budget.

Small businesses represent a very important part of our island economy. Studies indicate that small businesses, particularly those with four or fewer employees, are the primary creators of new jobs in an economy. These small businesses, in many instances, become an economy's leading innovators and primary exporters. Job creation,

innovation, and exporting are critical to building and sustaining a healthy and growing economy.

Established in 1990, the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network is the only statewide small business technical assistance provider. With five service centers on four major islands, the centers help Hawaii's small business ventures succeed and expand. It accomplishes this through quality consulting, business training and advocacy efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.