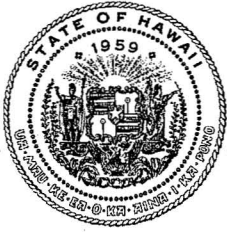


awana2

From: Tommilyn Soares [TSoares@dbedt.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 6:08 PM
To: INTtestimony
Cc: Gail Haruki
Subject: HB_2624_BED_1-28-08_INT
Attachments: HB2624_BED_01-28-08_INT.doc

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**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, January 28, 2008

8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of

HB 2624

RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL LEARNING MISSIONS.

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Awana and Members of the House Committee on
International Affairs.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the concept of HB 2624, which provides tax credits to corporations for sponsoring children to participate in international learning missions. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We hope the legislature will see it fit to support, pass and fund these ideas, together with the priorities of the Executive's Supplemental Budget.

DBEDT has placed a high priority on implementing the Hawaii Global Links program, the objective of which is to prepare Hawaii's residents for the global economy. Study abroad programs help to prepare our students—our future workforce--to be competitive in the global

marketplace. An incentive program as proposed by this bill may encourage more businesses to support global education through study abroad programs. We would like to recommend that the credit also be applicable to sponsoring teachers.

DBEDT defers, however, to the Department of Taxation for the tax implications of such a credit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.