



Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii

Feb. 23, 2008

The Honorable Roz Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov LATE

Re: SB 2480SD! RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE AND
DEVELOPMENT
Public Hearing February 25, 2008, 10:30AM Rm 211
E-testimony – WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

My name is Paula Helfrich and I am CEO of the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii. I am pleased to provide testimony in support of SB2480 SD1 relating to technology workforce and development.

EDAH and the EDBs of Maui, Kauai, Hawaii and Oahu have provided continuous support to the state legislature on public/private sector partnerships that have been successful in providing support to STEM-type programs innovative project implementation such as Project EAST, and leveraging of resources from federal, state, county and private sector initiatives. The state legislature has noted that it is essential to establish and monitor such programs on a long term basis in order to adequately plan and implement a broad range of services and measureable accomplishments towards economic diversification through workforce development.

EDAH and its partner entities have provided focus and program management for innovative K-12 workforce development and project based learning programs through STEM education (such as Project EAST of the Maui Economic Development Board and Aloha 'Ike on Kauai), science and technology support and assistance, and other diversification efforts.

EDAH and its partners are supportive of continuation of the on-going project partnerships based on these past successes, such as the 3Ts program established by the 2006 Hawaii State Legislature, funded in 2007 and implemented through the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii in partnership with its member organizations.

We look forward to working with you further on this important initiative. We urge your favorable consideration and thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.



LATE

February 21, 2008

RE: Senate Bill SB2480, Strong Support

The EAST Initiative model has been recognized nationally as an innovative, relevant, and successful approach to education. It is now a proven model within our Hawaii public schools, that is tested for further expansion and replication. Delivered from within the Department of Education, EAST is a project-based, service-learning oriented class that provides students with the most current, high-end technologies available in some of the most progressive fields in the world. EAST is more than a class offering and much more than a "computer class". At its heart, EAST is a coordinated attempt to provide today's students with an educational atmosphere that allows them to gain insight into their own abilities to acquire and use information, solve problems and gain valuable experience in using this technology.

EAST students routinely interact with hardware and software in animation, computer aided design, engineering design, visualization, database design, webpage design, programming, office automation, global positioning systems, and geographic information systems. The students, working in teams, tackle sophisticated service-oriented projects. In the process of solving these problems, they learn to become creative, intuitive, adaptable learners who can solve unpredictable, real-world problems.

Ten Hawaii schools including Maui High, Baldwin, Lahainaluna, Kihei Charter, Chiefess Kamakahahei middle school, King Kekaulike, Keaau, Molokai High and Middle School are successfully delivering EAST. Several representative teams will be participating in the upcoming National EAST Conference held in Arkansas. The students will be given the opportunity to showcase their projects and the impact that they make on both their school and community to over 2000 conference participants. The opportunity to compete on a National level is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Project EAST gives the students a chance to see their real potential — choosing to become professionals in areas that previously weren't even a thought or an option. EAST enables the students to see themselves as winners, and truly raises the bar in their expectations for life.

MEDB, in partnership with our sister Economic Development Boards, have been honored to facilitate the County, Federal, and private sector investment in Project EAST, including contributions to upgrade hardware, software and training opportunities. EAST is a proven workforce development model in our state, with an existing infrastructure ---- that is now paying dividends. We ask for your continued investment in this tested model to sustain and expand its reach to more students in our public school system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. It is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo,

Isla Young
Project Manager, Women In Technology
Hawaii State EAST Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern,

Thanks for supporting our program last year we would greatly appreciate your continued support through bill. SB2480

The EAST program has benefited me in learning about different opportunities about technology. I'm trying to learn how to do animations, graphic designs with slide shows. This program had thought me how to use this type of technology. Like the illustrators, G.P.S., slide shows, etc. I want to be able to learn more at HCC. I don't want to go to the mainland to learn this because where I'm going to get the money. This program will be good for students who are interested in doing this, as their career for Hawaii students; hopefully this program will teach me and other students what this kind of this program can do.

Sincerely,
Nathan Palakiko

LATE

Adrienne-Joy Sibayan
P.O. BOX 1641
Kaunakakai HI, 96748
2/11/2008

LATE

Welina e Senators,

My name is Adrienne-Joy and I am an EAST student at Molokai High School. I really appreciate your support from last year and ask for it again for the diverse technology activities for S.B. 2480.

The EAST program has benefited me by providing useful technology programs to create community service projects. I believe that continued support will lead to greater student achievement here on Molokai. Molokai is in need of economic development and this funding will help us reach our economic needs.

In closing, thank you for supporting S.B. 2480.

Mahalo,

Adrienne-Joy Sibayan
Molokai High School student

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for supporting our program last year and we would greatly appreciate your continued support through bill SB2480.

I strongly would like the continuing support of the EAST Programs statewide because of the many benefits that the program provides students. As a current EAST student I have been introduced into the application of community-based issues with the many software and resources that computers and the Internet provide. I also came to know various amounts new software that helped me in preparation for a possible career in the technology career pathway. Having the EAST program in Keaau High School not just benefited me but all of the students in the program. Thanks to EAST, we learned basic working skills. Besides our work with computers, EAST students learned about teamwork, critical thinking, quality work production, and community service. In conclusion, EAST programs should continue to operate in schools and continue providing the benefits that it gave to me.

Sincerely,

Rogemson Albano

EAST Student

*** This Email was sent by a student at Keaau High School in Hawaii Department of Education.

Manuwai Peters
P.O. Box 383
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

DATE

2/11/08

Dear Senators,

My name is Manuwai Peters, teacher at Molokai High School. I am writing in support of SB 2480 Relating to Economic Diversification. Firstly, mahalo for your support of Maui Economic Development Board's request for funding last year; those funds had a direct impact on my students here on Molokai.

SB 2480 will make possible the continuation of our EAST lab at Molokai High School. These project based learning opportunities have given underserved students on Molokai some exposure to careers that are science, math, and technology driven. The EAST lab has given students time to be self-directed learners linking their interest in spatial and engineering software with a career path.

In closing, please accept my thanks for your continued support of preparing Hawaii's high school students for the demands of a highly skilled workforce in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Manuwai Peters
Molokai High School

LATE

To whom it may concern,

Thanks for supporting our program last year, and we would appreciate your continued support through bill SB2480.

I am a junior attendee at Kea'au High School and this is my second year in the EAST program. I have learned how to create flash documents as well as pictures in Photoshop. I've applied myself with my work and I have made projects that benefit the community. All of my flash documents are for the community and they teach people ways to help the environment. We were able to acquire some hog wire and make recycle bins for our campus and since then we have seen much improvement in the pollution of the school grounds. This program that we have going is one of the best things that has happened to me because now I would like to pursue a career in computer technology.

Sincerely,
Patrick Understeller

LATE

January 8, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

At the end of my freshman year in high school, I was perplexed on the classes I should take as a sophomore. I asked some of my upper classmen friends for their advice. They told me to take EAST. Having never heard of the course before I asked what EAST was. My friends told me "it's a computer class", "it's an easy 'A'", and "all they do in class is surf the web and play on different computer programs". Taking the advice from my friends, I applied to become a member of the King Kekaulike High School EAST Lab. My first day in EAST, I learned that the Environmental and Spatial Technology Program was more than just a computer class.

As a 3rd year King Kekaulike High School EAST Alumni, I look back at all the opportunities, support, and fun I had through my EAST high school experience, and find that without Project EAST I would not be where I am today. Project EAST helped me in so many different ways. Through EAST and the Maui Economic Development Board, I have learned that Hawaii is not just a tourist destination but that Hawaii's Technology Industry is growing rapidly. Project EAST has given me numerous opportunities that have helped me gain self confidence and skills in public speaking. I have traveled the United States lobbying Hawaii's Congress for continued support and the expansion of the Project EAST throughout Hawaii. I have presented at numerous conferences sharing my EAST projects and advocating for the program. During interviews for the admission to different Universities, I found myself talking about the EAST Lab and what it has done for me for most of the interview (my shortest interview was an hour and 15min).

My first year in EAST, I started playing around with ArcGIS and was given the advice to use this program in my science fair project. Through this project and experience I went to State Science Fair and accomplished many of my research goals. The use of ArcGIS took my science fair project to a higher level and has given me an interest in ArcGIS. In the future, I hope to use and incorporate ArcGIS into my career.

Project EAST has changed my world for the better. I can not begin on explaining how happy, touched, and proud I am to say that I am a King Kekaulike High School EAST Alumni, and a recipient of the EAST Scholarship at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart at the Maui Economic Development Board for bringing this program that has changed my life to Hawaii. I also thank them for the programs, conferences, and presentations I had the opportunity of participating in. I have learned so much and met so many leaders of Hawaii. I also thank the Project EAST staff, Board members of different software companies, and the EAST Lab Facilitators at UALR for being so supportive and for their passion and drive of Project EAST. I lastly, thank the King Kekaulike High School EAST facilitator and supporting teachers for all their love and support, without them I would not be the person I am today. I whole heartedly give my full support and aloha to the EAST Program and the King Kekaulike High School EAST Program.

Sincerely,

Shanoa Miller

LATE

How has EAST Project impacted my life?

I participated in the EAST Project program throughout my four years of high school, and it has helped me grow, mature, and become more adept in the technology field. I started high school off as a very quiet, shy, and rarely outgoing person. Often I would procrastinate until the last minute to get my work done, then rushing through it without putting in enough effort to worry about the quality.

EAST requires that students push themselves to get their work done under their own motivation or let their grades suffer. This made me stop procrastinating, first simply in EAST but gradually in my other classes as well. We had several required presentations each year which helped my speaking skills, made me capable of talking loud enough and clear enough when required to speak. The fact that there is no teacher, just a facilitator means sometimes other students would know more about a program and I'd have to go to them for help. Pushing me out of my comfort zone and making me talk to people I didn't know. All these things helped me become a more outspoken, self-confident, and self motivated person.

I had a large lack of technical experience before joining EAST, I knew how to create a Word document, and possibly use Paint, but in EAST all sorts of programs were available for my use. Most of my projects were creating websites or updating an existing site. My first attempts were simply Word documents saved as an html, but I soon learned the basics of Dreamweaver and began to create websites with that program. Eventually I picked up a website to update and load onto the internet but I had to learn how to use an image program, Fireworks, to update the site since that is what the original had been created in, it was a fun, and challenging experience.

After four years of EAST, and high school, I graduated knowing that thanks to EAST I had a summer internship that started a week after graduation, and a scholarship to UALR. I got real work experience when designing a website for a company's project, rather than my own project. I was working with new people, learning new things, communicating and putting myself forward to ask questions and get help when I needed it. By the end of my internship I was getting ready to head out for Arkansas and start college.

Through the EAST Project I became better at many things, and grew as a person. I became a more self confident person who spoke around others, got quality work done in a timely fashion, with those skills I was one of the students to attend the EAST Conference of 2007. Corny as it sounds I really would not be where I am today without EAST.

Danielle Prince

Terina Naki
P.O. Box 773 Kaunakakai
Hawaii, 96748

LATE

Aloha, my name is Terina Naki and I attend Molokai High School. I would like to thank you for supporting the S.B. 2480 Bill. I am one of the many students who are participating in the EAST Project, and I would like to thank you for supporting us with the funding of the money situation. I would like to ask you to continue the support that you have been giving us throughout out the year. This EAST Project has made us better ourselves in technology and in many other areas. I would like to thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

Terina Naki