



The Hawai'i Open Source Education Foundation
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LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Committee on Education
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Saturday, February 2, 2008

Re: 2679 – Relating to Education

Esteemed Chairs

I am in support of SB 2679, with reservations. The need for additional Tech Coordinators is critical should any of the State's STEM programs have any hope at success. I commend your leadership in funding new positions.

I am alarmed at some of the software purchases proposed. It find it unusual that specific brands are being sought at a legislative level thus eliminating any competitive bidding. It is important for these committees to note that all of the software being proposed for purchase has superior Free and Open Source alternatives. By using our tax dollars on people rather than software licenses, we can build the economy that I know these committees seek.

The thin-client project is admirable. It is important for these committees to know that I already installed a thin-client demonstration at the our DOE's ATRB facility three years ago. I did this for our State for Free. I have been deploying and supporting thin-client installations in Hawaii for seven years. No one in these islands has more experience with thin-client deployments than I. The use of \$150,000 for this is questionable. However, since specific vendors are being named for your software purchases, I ask that you amend this measure to mention HOSEF as the service provider for this pilot. It seems only fair.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Belford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Scott Belford