



Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii

Feb. 11, 2008

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga
Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawaii State Senate, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB 2852 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION
Public Hearing February 12, 2008, 9AM Rm 224
E-testimony – EDTtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov

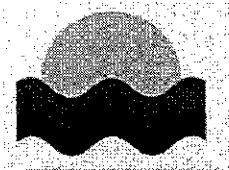
My name is Paula Helfrich and I am CEO of the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii. I am pleased to provide testimony in support of SB2852 relating to economic diversification.

The EDAH and the EDBs have provided continuous update to the state legislature on public/private sector partnerships that have been successful in providing economic stimulus, innovative project implementation, timely delivery of services, 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.

In January, 2008, the legislature assembled a briefing on recent progress made by the private sector Economic Development Boards on Maui, Kauai, Hawaii Island and Oahu, as well as the facilitation and support of the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii and the Hawaii Business Roundtable, and other organizations primarily involved in diversification 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 and other organizations as may be appropriate..

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.



Hawaii Island Economic Development Board

ISLAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Board of Directors

SENT VIA EMAIL

Chair
Robert Saunders
Vice President
CSV Hospitality Mgmt, LLC

February 11, 2008

Vice Chair
Richard Ha
President and Owner
Mauna Kea Banana

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga
Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawaii State Senate, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Treasurer
Richard Henderson
President
Realty Investments

Re: SB 2852 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION
Public Hearing February 12, 2008, 9 a.m. Room 224

Secretary
Barry Mizuno
Owner's Representative
Puna Geothermal Venture

Aloha Senator Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

Immediate Past Chair
Warren Lee
President
Hawaii Electric Light Company

On behalf of the directors and 115 members organizations of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, we wholeheartedly support SB2852 relating to economic diversification.

Director
Winston Chow
Senior Vice President
First Hawaiian Bank

Last month, the Committee on Economic Development and Technology of the State Legislature, assembled a briefing on the progress made by the private sector Economic Development Boards from each County and by the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii.

Director
Roberta Chu
Senior Vice President
Bank of Hawaii

Together, we have provided continuous updates to the state legislature on public/private sector partnerships that have been successful creating economic stimulus, innovative project implementation, timely delivery of services, 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.

Director
Greg Chun, Ph.D.
President and General Manager
Kanehameha Investment Corp.

We look forward to working with you further on this important initiative.

Director
Patricia Provalenko
President
PATDI, INC.

We ask for your favorable consideration and thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Director
James Takemine
Market Manager
American Savings Bank

'O wau nō me ka ha'a ha'a

Director
Barry K. Taniguchi
President and CEO
KTA Super Stores

Mark McGuffie
Executive Director

Director
Mark McGuffie
Executive Director

testimony

From: Isla Young [isla@medb.org]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 3:04 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Isla Young
Subject: Neighbor Island Testimony for SB2852
Attachments: SB2852_Support_Letter_Miller.doc; SB2852_Support_Letter_Naki.doc;
SB2852_Support_Letter_Palakiko.doc; SB2852_Support_Letter_Peters.doc;
SB2852_Support_Letter_Prince.doc; SB2852_Support_Letter_Sibayan.doc;
SB2852_Support_Letter_Understeller.doc; SB2852_Support_Letter_Young.doc;
SB2852Support_Letter_Albano.doc

Aloha – Please find the following testimony for SB2852 hearing being held on Tuesday, February 12th at 9:25 am, room 224.

If you have any questions please call me on my cell phone (808) 250-2888.

Have a wonderful day,
Isla

Isla Young
Project Manager, Women In Technology
Maui Economic Development Board
1305 North Holocono Street, Suite 1
Kihei, Hawaii, 96753
808 875-2307 (work)
808 250-2888 (cell)
808 879-0011 (fax)
isla@medb.org
www.womenintech.com

2/11/2008

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Thanks for supporting our program last year we would greatly appreciate your continued support through bill. SB2852

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

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for supporting our program last year and we would greatly appreciate your continued support through bill SB2852.

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

2/11/08

Dear Senators,

My name is Manuwai Peters, teacher at Molokai High School. I am writing in support of SB 2852 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 2852 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

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

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. 2852.

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. 2852.

Mahalo,

Adrienne-Joy Sibayan
Molokai High School student



SENATE BILL 2852 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

DATE: February 12, 2008
9:25 AM., Conference Room 224

TO: Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair

FROM: Lisa H. Gibson
President
Hawaii Science & Technology Council

RE: Testimony in support of the purpose and intent of SB 2852.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HISciTech) strongly supports the purpose and intent of SB 2852.

The innovation industry has been a growth sector in Hawaii's economy. The growth and success of technology industries in Hawaii represents a real hope for a sustainable economic future for our state in the ever competitive global economy of the 21st century.

As alluded to in sec. 1 of this bill, private, non-profit organizations involved with Hawaii's technology industry have been intimately involved in efforts to create or expand economic opportunities, to support workforce/education initiatives, and to provide analysis of Hawaii's innovation industry. For example, the Maui Economic Dev. Board has been a key partner in the successful Project East program. The Hawaii Science & Technology Council, pursuant to a grant from the Legislature is presently conducting a Targeted Sector Analysis as a major tool to provide policy makers with critical quantitative economic information. HISciTech's membership includes representatives from all nine of Hawaii's technology sectors.

This bill appropriates funds for economic diversification activities and specifically acknowledges the importance of private-public partnerships in achieving this important goal. In particular, the bill recognizes the need for a unified approach and strategy by involving and utilizing the expertise of innovation industry organizations like the economic development boards, and the Hawaii Science and Technology Council.

We agree wholeheartedly that a private-public partnership can and will engender a unified approach that will foster continued growth and success of innovation industries in our state

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council is a private tax-exempt 501(c)6 industry association with a 28-member board. The council serves Hawaii companies engaged in ocean sciences, agricultural biotechnology, astronomy, defense aerospace, biotech/life sciences, information & communication technology, energy, environmental technologies, and creative media.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Lisa H. Gibson
President