

Hawaii Island Economic Development Board
ISLAND OF OPPORTUNITY

24 March 2011

In Consideration of
House Concurrent Resolution 197
and
House Resolution 170
Supporting the Workforce Pipeline Program
Of the Thirty Meter Telescope Project

LATE TESTIMONY

Thursday, 24 March 2011
2:00 p.m. - Conference Room 309
House Committee on Higher Education

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Vice-Chair
and Honorable Members of the Committee on Higher Education
State House of Representatives, Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jacqui Hoover and I have the privilege of serving as the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB). I also have the privilege of working closely with the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) Corporation including and not limited to, being a member of the team that is assisting with outreach and education.

As part of this work, in September 2009 HIEDB facilitated and helped TMT convene a group of thirty stakeholders representing the Department of Education; Hawai'i Community College; University of Hawai'i at Hilo; State of Hawai'i Workforce Development; County of Hawai'i Workforce Investment and Research & Development; Office of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye; Labor Unions; Private Sector Employers; several Observatories besides TMT; and Community Leaders for a roundtable discussion on workforce development specific to TMT as well as, to anticipated support industries both currently based in Hawai'i and which might be attracted to Hawai'i if a skilled workforce in critical mass is available.

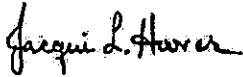
Subsequently, follow up meetings and work has been on-going to identify the kinds and numbers of positions that will be available through TMT from pre-construction, through construction, and upon completion of construction with a fully operational observatory. Simultaneously, critical paths leading to these respective opportunities are being identified such that curricula and exposure to science, technology, mathematics from the lowest grade levels through high school, two- and four-year college, graduate school and life-long learning can be matched to the respective positions and careers that will be available.

Through HIEDB, TMT funded an outreach specialist who provided in-class opportunities in science and astronomy for over five thousand Hawai'i Island students in grades 1 through 12 in public, private, and charter schools. Additional support has been given to enable students to experience the Journey through the Universe program; 'Imiloa Astronomy Center; and robotics. TMT recognizes that exposure at the earliest levels in a child's education is necessary to ensure that wonderment and provides the essential building blocks of a foundation that leads a child to seek to follow the critical path of education, preparation, and self-motivation to attain the unique skill sets required for a specific career path be it as an educator who will teach the next generation; administrative professional; construction tradesperson; environmental engineer; structural engineer; optics specialist; astrophysicist; or any number of specialties.

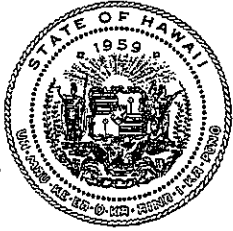
I come before you today to respectfully submit this testimony strongly supporting HCR 197, HR 170 and to assure you that although still in the development stages, the Thirty Meter Telescope's workforce pipeline program is well underway.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our support on behalf of HCR 197 and HR 170, and to further express our appreciation for the education, workforce development and diversification, and economic opportunities that will be availed through this exciting collaboration between TMT, public and private sectors, educational institutions at all levels, and most importantly our community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqui L. Hoover, Executive Director



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of

LATE TESTIMONY

RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, March 24, 2011

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of

HCR 197 / HR 170

SUPPORTING THE WORKFORCE PIPELINE PROGRAM OF THE THIRTY METER TELESCOPE PROJECT

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and members of the Committee. The department supports the intent of HCR 197 / HR170 to encourage collaboration among educational, governmental and private sector institutions and organizations to develop, implement and sustain a comprehensive workforce pipeline program designed to educate, train and mentor local residents for employment at the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) and other high technology projects in Hawaii.

The first “next-generation” telescope of its kind on Earth, the TMT will facilitate pioneering studies of objects in our solar system, stars throughout our Milky Way Galaxy, and the fabric of space-time, enabling scientists to address fundamental questions about the nature, origin and fate of our universe.

A broad range of scientists, engineers, technicians, administrative staff and public outreach professionals will be required to operate and maintain this state-of-the-art facility. The proposed workforce pipeline program would train local residents to assume these long-term, high-paying positions, as well as substantially enhance STEM education opportunities at elementary, secondary and higher education institutions in Hawaii. As such, this program will help expand our State's technologically proficient workforce, thereby supporting the growth and diversification of high tech industry statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.