

SB 1173

February 23, 2011

RE: Senate Bill 1173, SD1: Making An Appropriation For Matching Grants For Space Science Education Programming Services

Date of Hearing: Thursday, February 24, 2011

Time: 9:00am **Place:** Conference Room 221; State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street

Dear Senator David Ige, Senate Ways and Means Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Senate Ways and Means Vice Chair and members of the Ways and Means committee,

My name is Liane Kim, a founding teacher and director at Challenger Center Hawaii (CCHI). I'd like to express my heartfelt thank you to Senators Jill Tokuda, Will Espero, David Ige, Suzanne Chun Oakland, Carol Fukunaga and Clarence Nishihara for introducing Senate Bill 1173 on behalf of CCHI. I would also like to thank Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Education and Senate Public Safety, Government Operations and Military affairs committee for passing SB1173 with amendments during its initial hearing.

I support the intent of the bill and I appreciate the amendments that were made. I do however request additional amendments to SB1173 SD.1. The amendments include:

Section 1: line 2. Inserting the sum of \$205,839.61.

This figure is based on page 4 of 4, Attachment 2 of the budget request which was submitted to WAM on 2/18/11. Attachment 2 contains our minimum budget requirement for 2011-12 (\$400,839.61). Please note that \$145,000 in ARRA-SFSF Part B grant monies and the projected admission fees of \$50,000 were subtracted to obtain this figure.

Section 2: I request that this section be revised to be identical to Section 1 with a sum of **\$362,501.80**. This figure is based on the minimum budget requirement, Attachment 2 for 2012-2013 (412,501.80) less the projected \$50,000 in admission fees.

I'm requesting that the suggested amendments be supported so that CCHI can continue its mission "to prepare students for the global and technological workforce." CCHI advocates career-opportunities for students in the much needed areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Since its inception in 1993, over 85,000 students in Hawaii have participated in the space missions at the CCHI. Mission Control at the CCHI mirrors the real Mission Control at NASA's Johnson Space Center. It is equipped with the latest technology and allows the students to communicate with their fellow student astronauts in the space

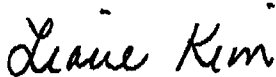
station and vice-versa. The space station at the CCHI provides students with hands-on experiences in conducting similar experiments as in the real International Space Station.

A large investment has been made to keep the CCHI in working order. Initially, three classrooms at Barbers Point Elementary School were renovated to accommodate the necessary equipment and resources for the CCHI. Software as well as hardware are constantly being upgraded to keep the CCHI equipped with the latest technological advances. It would be a shame to see the demise of the CCHI after such a large investment was made.

The CCHI supports the NASA Educator Resource Center which provides research materials and supplemental curriculum resources to teachers to enhance their own professional growth. In addition, to date, the CCHI provided direct professional development opportunities for 1,432 Hawaii teachers through a curriculum which is aligned to the State Standards and General Learner Outcomes (GLOs). This gave the teachers an additional opportunity to focus on the Standards and GLOs in a real-life situation.

CCHI is not a museum. It is a hands-on learning center that utilizes space exploration as a theme to teach STEM. I humbly ask for your support in keeping Ellison's legacy and the legacy of the Challenger 51-L crew alive for future generations.

With a grateful heart,



Liane Kim
Founding Educator/Director
Challenger Center Hawaii

**Senate Bill 1173;S.D.1: Making An Appropriation For Matching Grants For Space Education
Programming Services**

**Date of Hearing: Thursday, February 24, 2011 ;Time: 9:00 a.m. Place: Conference Room 221; State
Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street**

Comments: Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairperson Ige and WAM committee members:

My name is Stanley Seki , retired DOE Administrator and a member of the Challenger Center Advisory
Committee, and I am speaking **IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT of SB 1173, S.D. 1** and would like to offer
the following amendments (in boldface).

First, a sincere Mahalo Nui Loa to the following senators who helped to introduce SB 1173: Education
Committee Chair Tokuda, PGM Committee Chair Espero, WAM Chair Ige , Senators Chun-Oakland,
Fukunaga, Nishihara and other senators who are interested in the survival of the Challenger
Center Hawaii.

Amended section:

**Section 1. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of
*\$205839.61 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 to be used by the
Department of Education to award a grant for the provision of space education programming services
at the Barbers Point Elementary School on the island of Oahu. The sum appropriated shall be
expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.**

**Section 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of
**\$362,501.80 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to be used by the
Department of Education to award a grant for the provision of space education programming services
at Barbers Point Elementary School on the island of Oahu. The sum appropriated shall be expended by
the department of education for the purposes of this Act.**

Page 2: Comments for Senate Ways and Means Committee Re: SB 1173, S.D. 1:

***For fiscal year 2011-2012: 400,839.61 Budget Projection**

**** 2012-2013: 412,501.80**

-145,000.00 Federal Stimulus Funds

-50,000.00 Admission Fees

- 50,000.00 Admission Fees

\$205,839.61

\$362,501.80

Mahalo nui loa!

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

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TO: Senator David Y. Ige
Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
Via Email: WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Gary M. Slovin / Mihoko E. Ito

DATE: February 23, 2011

RE: **S.B. 1164, S.D. 1 – Relating to Enterprise Zones**
Decision Making: Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., Room 211

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways & Means:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of Sopogy, Inc., in **strong support** of S.B. 1164, S.D. 1. Sopogy is a solar power technology company based in Hawaii that uses concentration solar thermal technology to generate electricity, process heat, and provide solar air conditioning. The company has successfully completed numerous projects in Hawaii and around the world using this technology.

S.B. 1164, S.D. 1, amends the definition of "eligible business activity" in Hawaii's enterprise zone program to include, among other things, the production of certain electric power from renewable energy.

Attached in the following pages are Sopogy's comments in strong support of this measure.

We have met with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) on this measure to discuss the renewable energy and revenue benefits this measure has the potential to bring to the State.

As drafted, however, it is not certain that this bill will include Sopogy's activities. We will continue to work with DBEDT to refine the language in the bill. We would request that the committee pass the bill so that we can continue to refine it.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit comments.



TO: Senator David Y. Ige
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 2015
Via Email: WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Tim Wong
Vice President, Head of Strategy
Sopogy, Inc.

DATE: February 23, 2011

RE: **S.B. 1164, S.D.1 – Relating to Enterprise Zones
Decision Making: Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 9:00a.m., Room 211**

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Tim Wong and I am the Head of Strategy for Sopogy, Inc. (Sopogy). Sopogy is a solar power technology company based in Hawaii that uses concentration solar thermal to generate electricity, process heat, and provide solar air conditioning. Our mission is to bring renewable solar energy technologies to Hawaii and its people for the betterment of our environment, independence from volatile imported fossil fuels, and energy stability.

Sopogy **strongly supports** S.B. 1164, S.D.1, which among other things amends the definition of "eligible business activity" in Hawaii's enterprise zone program to include the production of certain electric power from renewable energy.

We support the State's efforts to develop a new renewable energy sector that will incentivize Hawaii-based renewable energy companies to develop their solar facilities in the state of Hawaii.

This measure will extend enterprise zone benefits (that are presently available to qualified wind energy businesses) to the solar energy industry. By becoming part of the Enterprise Zone, qualified solar energy companies would receive the benefits of exemptions from state income tax and state unemployment tax for the first seven





years (beginning at 80% for the first year, with a 10% reduction each year after until year seven). Qualified businesses would also receive a limited exemption from the state general excise and use tax. These tax benefits will provide a significant benefit to the State, as they will stimulate the growth of the energy technology sector, and will create new construction, new jobs and promote research and development in the solar energy technologies field. Each of these benefits will move Hawaii one step closer to helping the State eliminate its fossil fuel dependency.

We are continuing to engage in discussions with DBEDT to discuss the fine-tuning of this measure and to discuss the many benefits it would bring to the State.

In sum, we urge your support for this bill, which will help the State become truly energy independent and meet its goals of generating 40% of its energy needs locally by 2030.

Thank you for this opportunity to present comments in support of this measure.

