

Monday, February 13, 2012 1:15PM EDU/EDT

This testimony is submitted in support of S.B. 2482.

The intent and purpose of this bill is in alignment with the State's goals to diversify its economy. These goals are, among others, to support the development and growth of STEM professionals locally and to draw professional job opportunities to Hawaii.

Studies show that early student interest in STEM, the number of science courses completed in high school, and positive self-ability ratings in STEM are significantly associated with the completion of a STEM degree. Research indicates that students who plan early on to have a career in STEM fields are three times more likely to earn a degree in STEM.

S.B. 2482 will help to build a workforce with STEM knowledge and skills and to enhance professional job opportunities in Hawaii. This bill will provide the seed money to fund equipment, programs, and activities that will help public school teachers to engage their students and to steer them to pursue higher education and study in STEM fields.

We respectfully ask for your support of this bill.

American Statistical Association – Hawaii Chapter

AmStatAssocHI@gmail.com

<http://community.amstat.org/HawaiiChapter/Announcements/>

**SB2482 Testimony**

February 10, 2012

My name is Kevin Leong and I am a software engineer at Zappos.com. I recently graduated (Fall 2011) from the University of Hawaii with a degree in Computer Science, and interned this past summer at Amazon.com as a Software Development Engineer. I have also interned at Ikeyzo, Inc, a highly respected local software development company.

While I was enrolled in the University of Hawaii, I also owned and operated my own IT company, Digital Owls, which offered Software Development and computer consultation and repair.

I started out learning computers on my own, and it was tough going. Especially in the beginning. Like anything else, however, it gradually became easier and easier. I did get a late start though. Had I been exposed to programming and software development in my younger years, I think that a lot of the hardship that I went through in the beginning years may have been lessened. This is not to minimize the importance of self-motivation and being able to fight through tough times, but sometimes, it never hurts to get a little help early.

The earlier the public school system is able to touch students and show them what the world of technology has to offer them, the better prepared they will be to decide if technology is a path they want to explore. If such a fund is able to cultivate this curiosity, even better.

I for one, highly support this initiative.

Sincerely,

// Signed //

Kevin Leong  
Software Engineer, Zappos.com, Inc.

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

HEARING

Monday, February 13, 2012  
Conference Room 016

S.B. 2482 RELATING TO EDUCATION

My name is Nolan Kawano and I am currently serving as the President of the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation.

I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 2482 Relating to Education but would like to request that this bill be included in S.B. 2528 with the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. replacing the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation as the administrator of the Hawaii Public Schools Science and Technology Trust Fund.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is an area where the State of Hawaii has an incredible opportunity to positively distinguish itself. We have a climate that allows for various forms of renewable energy and scientific discovery, a technology industry that successfully challenges convention, and a population eager to support the next generation of STEM students in Hawaii. What we lack, however, are the funds to get this done and this bill is a small step in getting us there. It will help to create an alliance between the public school STEM initiative and the public's desire to advance STEM in Hawaii.

I thank you for this opportunity to present supporting testimony.

A New Year's Resolution

January 28, 2012

I seldom make New Year's Resolutions, but I feel compelled to this year as never before. Never before has our great Nation strayed so far from the founding principles that led to putting a man on the moon, and our progress in improving health and quality of life, and offering the option of democracy. This greatness is evidenced by the overwhelming number of Nobel Prize winners, unrivaled discoveries in all fields of science and human endeavor. The currency and the very blood of this greatness are knowledge and skill in science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM).

We have become captured by our own success. We have become complacent and predictable. We have not only lost the great inventor Steve Jobs, but we have also lost his last words of advice: "Stay hungry, Stay foolish".

We in Hawaii believe this condition is not terminal and the solution lies with our youth with their near limitless curiosity, capacity and power. A visit to the Hawaii Academy of Sciences' Annual Exhibition of Science and Engineering by the State's students always serves to rejuvenate and inspire after another confrontation by bad news of how our society seems to have lost its way..It is in our children and the youth of today that we can again regain our greatness. Based on my 35 years as a professor of science at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and participation in technical assistance projects with the US Agency in International Development, United Nations projects, and foundations such as Ford, McArthur, and the Darwin Foundation in the Galapagos as well as in Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia, Columbia, Italy, China, Thailand and the Philippines, India, and both West and Southern Africa, it is my firm conclusion that we can regain this greatness. The learning of science, technology, engineering, and, yes, mathematics is the fuel that can energize and inspire this rebirth.

Fareed Zakaria puts the desperate situation in perspective with his "take" on December 11, 2011, that our poor economy is a result of an unprecedented loss of human capital. An example of this loss of human capital is the fact that the number of science and engineering degrees has decreased by 11% from 1989 to 2000, according to the most recent data. He asks "Are we going to let this condition to continue to spiral out of control?" Another observation is that the current unemployment figures for graduates with degrees in science and engineering is about 4.6%, well below the national average of 8.5%. One wonders what the true unemployment rate would be if we had as many graduates equipped with science and engineering degrees as necessary.

One option is to increase the investment in our youth by providing them with the fundamentals to create, construct and succeed. The American Statistical Association – Hawaii Chapter proposes that the option of a check-off of \$5 per each state income tax be made available to our citizens towards improved learning of science and mathematics in our public primary and secondary schools.

**SB2482 RELATING TO EDUCATION** has been prepared to help begin the long journey to restore our greatness.

Please join the ASA-HI in this effort so we can control this spiral and lay the foundation for resuming greatness, our future, and our youth.

Mahalo.

**fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane**

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**From:** EDU Testimony  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 7:38 AM  
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]  
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Testimony for EDU/EDT 2/13/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2482

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sharon P. Cox  
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Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to establish a check the box fund for the purpose establishing a trust fund to facilitate initiatives that promote the learning and teaching of science and technology in the public schools and offer the general public an opportunity to partner in these efforts.