



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Bldg., 250 South Hotel St., 5th For., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

9:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

SB 2528 SD1
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2528, SD1, which amends Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section which expands the description of computer labs to support multi-disciplinary courses of study, expands definitions, increases revenue streams and places the Hawaii 3Ts technology laboratories fund under DBEDT.

This measure, along with SB 2482, SD1, which amends The Hawaii Public Schools Science and Technology Trust Fund (HRS 302A) underscore the Administration's commitment to providing enhanced technology resources and broadband capabilities to develop our State's competitive advantage in knowledge and technology-based industries.

We support SB2528, SD1, and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

February 25, 2012

RE: Senate Bill SB2528, Strong Support

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of SB2528, which will establish a Hawaii School Technology Laboratory Fund within the non-profit organization, The Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii (EDAH).

As a teacher, I would like to testify first hand how the STEMworks program engages and inspires my students to understand their potential, and hopefully enter into the many STEM careers available to them in Hawaii. STEMworks has been a successful addition to my program in that it has provided meaningful and relevant opportunities through student driven assignments that have real-world application and serve school, community, or societal needs, and by providing students a venue to showcase their projects and present them to a panel of judges that consist of professional from the community. STEMworks is based on the teaching philosophy that places the teacher as facilitator, this as an innovative and successful approach to education because it provides a framework that puts the students in charge of their learning. STEMworks is a project-based, service-learning oriented class that has provided my students with some of the most current, high-end technologies available in the High Tech Industry. STEMworks is a coordinated attempt to provide today's students with an educational atmosphere that allows them to gain insight into their own abilities to acquire and use information, solve problems and gain valuable experience in using this technology.

STEMworks has provided my students with hardware and software in animation, computer aided design, engineering design, visualization, webpage design, programming, office automation, global positioning systems, and geographic information systems, none of which would have been possible on my classroom budget. Students, work in teams to tackle sophisticated service-oriented projects. In the process of solving these problems, they learn to become creative, intuitive, adaptable learners who can solve unpredictable, real-world problems. Students and facilitators are offered training and an annual conference allows students from across the State to meet, share projects and ideas, collaborate and compete, and potentially form partnerships across the State to tackle larger problems such as marine debris or conservation issues. For students' living in small rural areas that do not have access to the latest technology or do not get to travel and have exposure to possibilities that exist beyond their community.

We as teachers are consistently asked to be innovative and to hold the students to higher standards in education that will prepare them for life beyond high school; and we are given less and less each year to do this with. STEMworks has been invaluable in providing the resources and training that are moving education towards the 21st Century and helping students become more aware of career opportunities and providing them the resources to prepare for them.

Supporting SB2528 will allow for continued support of our STEM students throughout the state. Thank you for your time and consideration. It is greatly appreciated.

Truly,

Perry S. Buchalter
Molokai High School
Fine Arts/CTE Teacher/Facilitator

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: agrag@kkhs.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for SB2528 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012 1:59:03 PM
Attachments: [STEMworks letter.pdf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2528

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anna Gragas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: agrag@kkhs.k12.hi.us
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

2/24/12

To Whom It May Concern,

The STEMworks program has taught me many skills and techniques that I will use and carry with me the rest of my life. When I was first introduced to the STEMworks program during my freshman year, I didn't know much about the hardware and software that the class provided. Now, after being in the class for almost three years, I have learned how to use various tools to help create things that benefit our community.

One of the best parts about STEMworks is that it doesn't limit you to only science, technology, engineering, and math fields, but instead it helps you see how STEM can be integrated with other topics as well. STEMworks has also motivated me to become an independent and self-directed learner. Learning how to use programs like Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Illustrator were difficult for me because I am not naturally an independent learner. This class helped me to develop the initiative to solve my own problems and find the answers to my own questions.

During my freshman year, my sister and I helped promote Kick Butts Day at Pukalani Elementary School for our STEMworks project. I have also worked with GIS software and a GPS unit to track the spread of Tapinoma Sessile Ants in upcountry Maui. This year, I am working with the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii to help them create a new website.

The valuable resources that the STEMworks program provides helped inspire me to become more involved with different technologies. This class has made me more interested in the engineering and technology fields by showing me how important they are and how they are somehow integrated in everything.

Sincerely,

Anna Gragas

King Kekaulike High School