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Committee on Finance

SB 2399, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Thursday, March 27, 2014; Conference Room 308

4:00 p.m.

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure.

Purpose and Justification: EOA believes that society must view age as an economic opportunity and as an antidote to a tendency of viewing aging primarily as an economic liability. If and when young people realize that the burgeoning older adult population may affect any and all industries, it will be clear that employability and career advancement may be tied to understanding the needs of this population. Every business and industry will need to consider creating products and services for the older adult market. There is a potential for older adults to be viewed in a more favorable light and become a basis for employment and careers.

In November 2013, EOA, in partnership with Kapiolani Community College's Kupuna Education Center, published "Hawaii's 2020 Vision: The State of Active Aging." The purpose was to create the foundation for reshaping state policy on aging to transition to a state of active aging. To achieve this vision, one of our recommendations was to identify age-related economic opportunities and training for encore careers. Specifically, we believe that "Hawaii can develop a

high technology industry to address the needs of aging. Many technology companies such as Intel are investing heavily in research on how technology can assist the older adult population be better able to age in place effectively with fewer workers and while participating more actively in the community. Seize the opportunity to become a beta-site to test, evaluate and improve these emerging technologies in Hawaii” (Visit http://hawaiidrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/HCBS_1.pdf for a copy of this report). Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Written Statement of
ROBBIE MELTON
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 27, 2014
4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
In consideration of

SB 2399 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) offers **comments** on SB 2399 SD2 HD1 relating to Economic Development. HTDC supports innovation and technology development in any industry, including the use of technology and manufacturing as key platforms for improved standards of care for Hawaii's elderly population.

HTDC has statute to develop technology parks through HRS 206M-2 paragraph (1) and suggests section 2 of this bill is redundant and unnecessary. HTDC does not have resources to explore private sector partnerships in this area.

Though we support the intent of SB 2399 SD2 HD1, HTDC will need \$500,000 to dedicate for research to build expertise in the focus area of a geriatric research and technology park, explore partnership opportunities, and solicit proposals to ensure the best use of State resources.

This would be a specific appropriation and should not replace or adversely impact the Administration's budget request. Without an appropriation HTDC suggests that our agency would be best suited in a support role for this initiative, as part of a planning committee providing expertise in establishing technology parks and in entrepreneurship, rather than a revision of its 206M HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.