



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

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GOVERNOR

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Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 27, 2014

4:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

SB 2981, SD 2

RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2981, SD 2, legislation amending the state plan policies, objectives and priority guidelines to encourage innovative activity and entrepreneurship.

Hawaii's established industries are maturing. There is a strategic need to develop new growth sectors for the State's economy. DBEDT's mission is to nurture a Hawaii economy that embraces innovation and is globally competitive, thus providing high-wage job opportunities for all of Hawaii's citizens.

SB 2981, SD 2, will provide the needed planning framework that prioritizes and coordinates State efforts to develop new growth sectors of our economy by encouraging innovative activity and entrepreneurship. This measure will help DBEDT to execute its current economic growth strategy that is centered on the Broadband, HI Growth, and Clean Energy Initiatives. These efforts collectively are creating the infrastructure needed to attract innovative and globally-focused entrepreneurs and businesses, while allowing them to succeed in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

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KEALI`I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014
Time: 4:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON S.B. NO. 2981 S.D. 2 – RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Catherine Awakuni, and I am the Cable Television Administrator at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the “**Department**”). The Department appreciates the opportunity to express **support for the intent** of S.B. No. 2981 S.D. 2, which amends the State Plan’s policies, objectives and priority guidelines to promote and encourage an innovative economy.

The Department is one of three lead agencies supporting the Hawaii Broadband Initiative (HBI) to provide statewide access to affordable, high speed broadband services. The Department is also charged by statute with responsibilities related to the advancement of broadband infrastructure in the State. Both the HBI and the Hawaii Broadband Task Force, formed by the Legislature in 2007, recognize that the development of world-class broadband communications infrastructure is vital to the future of our State’s economy and to the health, welfare and quality of life of all of our residents.

S.B. No. 2981 furthers the State’s forward-looking vision to achieve world class broadband communication for all residents and businesses in Hawaii and to attract technology related industry to the State. The bill also further promotes the streamlining of government processes and access to infrastructure to facilitate these objectives. The Department thus strongly supports the intent of this bill, which will among other things guide policy and action to drive broadband deployment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 4:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2981 SD2 RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **supports** SB 2981 SD2, which amends the state plan policies, objectives, and priority guidelines to promote and encourage innovative activity in the economy.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports continuing efforts to develop the innovation sector of our economy. A diversified economy is important to Hawaii’s economic long term viability. This bill will help provide much needed resources in mentoring, business development, and private-public capital to develop new business industries. The creation of opportunities for investments will lead to a booming and diverse state economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.



Written Statement of

KARL FOOKS
President

Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation

Before the
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 27, 2014
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SB 2981 SD 2 RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

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

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of SB 2981 SD 2, legislation that amends the state plan policies, objectives and priority guidelines concerning the economy and information technology to encourage innovative activity and entrepreneurship.

The amendments proposed in SB 2981 SD 2 align with the mission of the HI Growth Initiative to build an innovation economy in Hawaii by helping to develop entrepreneurs, enabling research commercialization to form profitable spin-out businesses and catalyzing investment capital to help these businesses to grow and scale in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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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 2981 SD2 RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

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

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** SB 2981 SD2 relating to the Economy. HTDC supports amending the state's priority guidelines to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. HTDC's mission is to grow the technology and innovation ecosystem needed to continue to grow this nascent industry in Hawaii and become globally competitive. Giving priority to building this ecosystem, including HI Growth, Broadband, and Clean Energy Initiatives, would greatly improve the potential for businesses and entrepreneurs to succeed in Hawaii, as well as attracting non-Hawaii business to start and grow in Hawaii.

HTDC requests the correction of the defective effective date for this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.