

SB 2981

Amends the state plan policies, objectives, and priority guidelines to promote and encourage innovative activity in the economy.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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THE SENATE
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

and

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Date: Monday, February 10, 2014

Time: 2:50 p.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ AND GLENN WAKAI, CHAIRS,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

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, which amends the State Plan’s policies, objectives and priority guidelines to promote and encourage an innovative economy.

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.

Both the Hawaii Broadband Task Force, formed by the Legislature in 2007, and the Governor’s Hawaii Broadband Initiative (“HBI”) recognize that the development of world-class communications infrastructure is vital to the future of our State’s economy and to the health, welfare and quality of life of all our residents. The Department, which is charged by statute and under the HBI with responsibilities related to the advancement of broadband infrastructure in the State, thus strongly supports the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written support.



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

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GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND HOUSING**
and the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
Monday, February 10, 2014
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 16

in consideration of
SB 2981
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

Chairs Dela Cruz and Wakai, Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2981, 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 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.

Late

Written Statement of
ROBBIE MELTON
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING
AND
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

Monday, February 10, 2014
2:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 16
In consideration of

SB 2981 RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

Chairs Dela Cruz and Wakai, Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development, Government Operations and Technology and the Arts.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** SB 2981 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



SANJEEV "SONNY"
BHAGOWALIA
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

RANDY BALDEMOR
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TESTIMONY OF
KEONE KALI, DEPUTY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS, AND HOUSING, AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE
ARTS

Monday, February 10, 2014
2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 16
State Capitol

S.B.2981
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

I am Keone Kali, Deputy Chief Information Officer (Operations), in the State Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT), speaking in strong support of S.B. No. 2981 which amends the state plan policies, objectives, and priority guidelines concerning the economy and information technology.

As part of State government's 10-year, multi-phased plan to transform how it does business, OIMT has the lead role to improve the reliability, availability, and capabilities of the State's data processing and communications infrastructure supporting departments across all islands. Reaching that objective requires significant expansion of the broadband communication infrastructure which connects this island state to its neighbors around the Pacific Rim.

The OIMT is collaborating with the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on the Hawaii Broadband Initiative (HBI) which will bring much-needed additional capacity through new generation transpacific fiber landing stations to Hawaii; will extend high speed broadband internet services to a wider cross section of our state; and will sustain Hawaii's global connectivity in future years.

We support this bill which recognizes the key role that broadband communications, innovation, and workforce development play as the foundation for Hawaii's overall economic growth and diversification. We ask that the Committee move this bill forward, and thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify in support of this proposal that will improve government operations and services to our citizens; and will position Hawaii's technology industry as broadband and wireless communications leaders in the world community.



Written Statement of

KARL FOOKS

President

Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation

Before the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & HOUSING

And the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY & THE ARTS

February 10, 2014

2:50 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 16

In consideration of

SB 2981 RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Wakai, Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations & Housing and Members of the Committee on Technology & the Arts:

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of SB 2981, 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 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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing and
Committee on Technology and the Arts
Monday, February 10, 2014 at 2:50 P.M.
State Capitol - Conference Room 016**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2981 RELATING TO ECONOMY

Chairs Dela Cruz and Wakai, and Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara, and members of the committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **supports** SB 2981 Relating to 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.