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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that diversifying the  
2 economy is critical to the future of the State.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the  
4 high-growth grant program within the department of business,  
5 economic development, and tourism to assist qualified businesses  
6 by providing grants for specific business development purposes.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§201- High-growth grant program; high-growth grant  
11 program special fund; established. (a) There is established  
12 within the department a business development grant program that  
13 shall be known as the high-growth grant program. The high-  
14 growth grant program shall assist qualified businesses by  
15 providing grants to:

16 (1) Expand business operations;

17 (2) Improve business productivity; or



1        (3) Invest in food safety or quality control programs.

2        (b) The department shall issue grants to finance:

3        (1) Equipment purchases;

4        (2) Management and workforce training;

5        (3) Infrastructure improvements; and

6        (4) Consulting or feasibility studies.

7        (c) There is established in the state treasury the high-  
8 growth grant special fund to be administered by the department  
9 of business, economic development, and tourism and into which  
10 shall be deposited appropriations made by the legislature to the  
11 fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be used for the purposes  
12 of this section.

13        (d) The high-growth grant program shall provide grants to  
14 qualified businesses in an amount no greater than forty per cent  
15 of the amount that is privately invested in a business for one  
16 or more of the purposes set forth in subsection (a); provided  
17 that the program shall provide no more than \$400,000 to any  
18 specific qualified business in one calendar year.

19        (e) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
20 91 to implement this section.



1        (f) As used in this section, "qualified business" means a  
2 business that has:

3        (1) Been in business for at least two full years; and

4        (2) Demonstrated the ability to export products."

5        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to be  
8 deposited into the high-growth grant special fund.

9        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the high-growth  
10 grant special fund the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much thereof as  
11 may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the high-growth  
12 grant program to provide grants to qualified businesses;  
13 provided that no more than \$100,000 may be used to administer  
14 the program.

15        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of  
17 this Act.

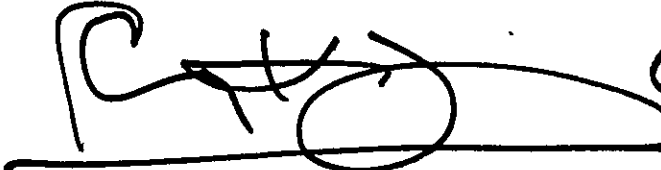





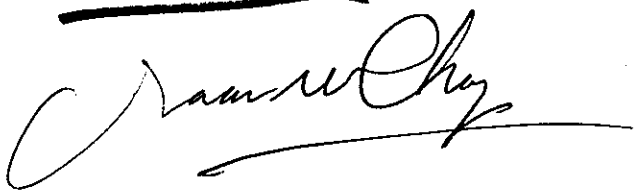
18        SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

	
	
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# H.B. NO. 2545

**Report Title:**

Business Development; Grant Program; Special Fund; Established; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the high-growth grant program and special fund to provide grants to qualified businesses for certain business development activities. Makes an appropriation.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

