



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor and Committee on
Ways & Means
Monday, April 4, 2016 at 9:15 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2264 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly supports** HB 2264 HD 1 SD 1, which makes an appropriation to the high technology development corporation for the provision of technology internship grants and development of programs to support the local talent pipeline for the technology industry.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill is a key strategy that can provide the local technology industry with resources to offer local talent resources to stay in Hawaii. Many of Hawaii's talent end up leaving the islands to pursue jobs and opportunities that are more plentiful in the mainland. This bill would meet the demand for more opportunities and jobs for growing talent in the technology industry so that they will pursue what we can offer them here.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Statement of
Robbie Melton
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor
And
Ways and Means
Monday, April 4, 2016
9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB2264 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports with requested amendments** HB2264 HD1 SD1 that makes an appropriation to the High Technology Development Corporation for the provision of technology internship grants and development of programs to support the local talent pipeline for the technology industry.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at strengthening the local talent pipeline for the technology industry.

The bill requests HTDC to provide grants to companies which would require more specific language to implement. Instead, HTDC respectfully suggests the following changes to Section 2 of the bill which would clarify that the funding provided would be specific to funding internship opportunities at technology companies.

“SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund technology **internships** and the development of programs to further the pipeline of talent in Hawaii for technology fields, which may include skills assessment, program development, seminars, and training; provided that no **intern** shall receive more than \$1,250 per year and no company shall receive more than \$2,500 per year for this purpose.”

HTDC respectfully requests correction of the defective effective date. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.