



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 9:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2504 SD1 RELATING TO INNOVATION BUSINESS  
INTERACTION**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2504 SD1, which establishes a loan program in the HTDC to support high-technology small businesses.

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.

The Chamber supports efforts to assist the high technology industry in Hawaii. This loan program would provide much needed assistance to grow the tech industry in Hawaii and create more jobs and incentives to keep local talent here. Of the many growing industries in Hawaii, the tech industry is one to focus on as it is the industry to continue to move Hawaii forward in this twenty-first century with innovation and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.