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



1       (b) The department shall issue grants under the high-  
2 growth grant program 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 program special fund to be administered by the  
9 department of business, economic development, and tourism and  
10 into which shall be deposited appropriations made by the  
11 legislature to the fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be  
12 used for the purposes of this section.

13       (d) The high-growth grant program shall provide grants to  
14 qualified businesses in an amount no greater than twenty per  
15 cent of the amount that is privately invested in a business for  
16 one or more of the purposes set forth in subsection (a);  
17 provided that the program shall provide no more than \$400,000 to  
18 any 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 \$                    or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2018-2019 to be deposited into the high-growth grant  
10 program special fund.

11        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the high-growth  
12 grant program special fund the sum of \$                    or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
15 2018-2019 for the high-growth grant program to provide grants to  
16 qualified businesses; provided that no more than \$100,000 may be  
17 used to administer the program in any fiscal year.

18        The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
19 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
20 of this Act.

21        SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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**Report Title:**

Business Development; High-Growth Grant Program; Special Fund;  
Established; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes the high-growth grant program and special fund to  
provide grants to qualified businesses for certain business  
development activities. Makes appropriations. (SD1)

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

