



Written Statement of
Robbie Melton
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
HB1326 HD2
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports the intent** and offers **comments** on HB1326 HD2 that appropriates funds for a market study to evaluate and assess the feasibility of developing a basalt fiber facility in Hawaii.

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 promoting technology and innovation jobs.

Through applied research, PISCES has successfully manufactured innovative materials using Hawaiian basalt with applications both in space exploration and on-island, generating significant interest from the aerospace sector and the local business community.

PISCES' continued work to expand and develop products and markets (including basalt-based concrete, basalt rebar, basalt mesh, cording and fabric) derived from Hawaii's naturally occurring basalt will positively impact the demand for quarried basalt in the Islands with long-term economic benefits. While produced internationally, the lack of a domestic basalt material industry in Hawaii offers an untapped market that could yield profitable returns. Basalt-based products and materials have the potential to create new manufacturing opportunities while significantly reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported products.

HB1326 HD2 amends the language for the market study to evaluate and assess the feasibility of developing a basalt fiber facility in Hawaii. HTDC comments that the scope of the study would be most effective if limited to a market assessment for basalt fiber products. Assessing the feasibility of developing a facility depends on too many unknown factors that would be specific to the business operating the facility. For example, current financial state, business model, existing infrastructure and distribution network would all be important considerations. The feasibility study would be best done by the private sector, but could leverage the market study produced by the State.

We respectfully request the correction of the defective effective date. We support this initiative as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Phone: (808) 935-2180 Fax: (808) 935-2187 Website: www.hiedb.org
Mail: 117 Keawe Street, #107 · Hilo, HI 96720 E-mail: hiedb@hiedb.org

Testimony to the
**Senate Committee on
Economic Development, Tourism & Technology**
March 15th, 2017
13:15
State Capitol, Conference Room 414
In Support of
HB1326-HD2
Relating to Workforce Development.

To: Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi; and members of the committees.

My name is Jacqui Hoover and I have the privilege of serving as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB), a private, member-based 501(c)3 organization incorporated in 1984 to help strengthen and diversify Hawaii Island's economy including and not limited to, support of education and workforce development initiatives.

HIEDB strongly **supports HB1326-HD2** which will provide funding to conduct a market assessment study to validate the feasibility of establishing a basalt fiber and a basalt rebar manufacturing industry in Hawai'i.

We humbly request your support of HB1326-HD2 and the unique opportunity for Hawai'i to establish a new industry that is derived from local resources, supports innovation, allows an opportunity to reduce importation and create a new product for exportation, and create new jobs.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our support.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jacqui Hoover/



Written Statement of
DR. PATRICK K. SULLIVAN
PRESIDENT/CEO OCEANIT

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 15, 2017

1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In Support of

HB1326 RELATING TO WORFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

From: Dr. Patrick K. Sullivan, President/CEO

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1326

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of HB1326.**

The State of Hawaii has a genuine need to broaden its economic base. We now have a major opportunity to support and fulfill that necessity.

The work that PISCES has been conducting with regards to different uses and applications of basalt could have a strong positive impact on the state's economy and potentially lead to the creation of a new industry: basalt fibers and derivative products.

There is currently no basalt fibers manufactured in the US. All fibers are being manufactured in China, Russia, Korea and former members of the Soviet Union. Hawaii has the potential to become a source for US made basalt fiber.

Basalt fibers have unique characteristics and can be used to make products such as rebar, fabric, mesh, rope and used also as aggregates to strengthen concrete. Basalt rebar does not corrode like steel rebar, this could present a great benefit for Hawaii and other coastal and tropical areas in the world.

We strongly support HB1326-HD2 and ask you for your support of this Bill.

Ala Moana Pacific Center, Suite 1800
1585 Kapiolani Boulevard
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4500
Telephone 808 942-8108
Facsimile 808 948-9595

DataHouse



Statement of: Eddie Ontai, President, DataHouse Consulting, Inc.
Testimony presented before the

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
HB1329 HD1
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Brian Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology:

I offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 HD1 that establishes a program to be administered by the High Tech Development Corporation to provide grants and mentorship to teams that develop proof of concepts resulting from the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge (HACC).

DataHouse has been providing solutions and innovations for our community for over 41+ years, and has always believed that technology and innovation would help to stop the “brain drain” in Hawaii. Our purpose has been to collaborate with our community partners to generate higher value jobs for our local people, which would ultimately advance our community for future generations. That is why we support this bill, which would enable innovative individuals and organizations to collaborate with government in solving some of our community issues via smart solutions.

The Hawaii Annual Code Challenge is a unique opportunity for the tech and startup community to collaborate with government departments to develop innovative solutions to some of the pressing social challenges facing Hawaii.

This program is necessary because hackathons like the HACC, even after 30-days only produce, at best, proof of concepts, but are not complete products. This grant program bridges the known gap between proof of concept, prototype and commercial product.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Dr. Luke Flynn
94-1115 Hahana Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Before the: **Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology**

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

To: Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi; and members of the committees:

I am writing to express my **SUPPORT** for **HB1326-HD2: Relating to Workforce Development**.

In 1992, I graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a PhD in Geology & Geophysics. I have lived in Hawaii for 30 years and raised two children here who also graduated from UH. I am now a professor in the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (HIGP). Throughout my research career, I have managed 26 external grants and contracts worth approximately \$50M or an average of \$1.9M/year since graduation. A very high proportion of these funds are used to support faculty co-Investigators, staff, and students that have all supported the State economy. Since 2002, I have been the Director of the NASA Hawaii Space Grant Consortium (HSGC) and the NASA Hawaii EPSCoR Programs. The function of HSGC is to provide STEM education and NASA workforce development opportunities in Hawaii. The function of NASA Hawaii EPSCoR is to expand aerospace research infrastructure within the State. Finally, since 2007, I have been the Director of the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL). HSFL's objective is to design, build, test, launch, and operate small spacecraft from the Hawaiian Islands. On November 3, 2015, HSFL's first launch from the Pacific Missile Range Facility did not achieve orbit. However, there were a lot of successes. The world took notice that Hawaii can become a space-faring State, and the world took notice that our local students built a satellite that passed all tests for space flight.

I apologize for the long introduction, but, as with space flight opportunities, I believe that this bill offers a chance for the State of Hawaii to broaden its economic base in a new growth area for construction and manufacturing. PISCES has successfully manufactured innovative materials using Hawaiian basalt with applications to space exploration and conventional construction here in Hawaii. PISCES' continued work to expand and develop products and markets (including basalt-based concrete, basalt rebar, basalt mesh, cording and fabric) derived from Hawaii's naturally occurring basalt will positively impact the demand for quarried basalt in the Islands with long-term economic benefits. While produced internationally, the lack of a domestic basalt material industry in Hawaii offers an untapped market that could yield profitable returns. Basalt-based products and materials have the potential to create new manufacturing opportunities while significantly reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported products. In addition, basalt-based products are impervious to corrosion and can be used to build permanent structures in tropical climates.

I believe that PISCES is already well on its way to developing cutting-edge, basalt-based products and materials that will directly benefit Hawaii's economy. I would greatly appreciate your affirmative consideration of this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,


Dr. Luke Flynn

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:06 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1326 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1326

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for ETT on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Written Statement of:
Rodrigo Romo
Program Manager, PISCES.

Before the:
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology
March 15th, 2017
13:15
State Capitol, Conference Room 414
In Support of
HB1326-HD2: Relating Workforce Development.

To: Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi; and members of the committees.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1326-HD2.**

PISCES has been involved in basalt research during the last four years. Research has been done to study different ways in which local basalt, which is similar in composition to lunar regolith, can be manipulated and used in different applications. One application that has created a significant amount of interest in the State is Basalt Rebar.

Today, basalt fiber research, production and most marketing efforts are based in countries once aligned with the Soviet bloc. Companies currently involved in production and marketing include Kamenny Vek (Dubna, Russia), Technobasalt (Kyiv, Ukraine), Hengdian Group Shanghai Russia & Gold Basalt Fibre Co. (Shanghai, China), and OJSC Research Institute Glassplastics and Fiber (Bucha, Ukraine).

Despite its ready availability from mines and open-air quarries around the world, only a few dozen locations contain basalt that has been analyzed and qualified as suitable for manufacturing continuous thin filaments. Samples taken from a quarry in Hilo have shown that the basalt composition falls within the necessary parameters required for basalt fiber manufacturing.

This presents a unique opportunity for the State of Hawai'i to take a lead in the development of a new industry based on local resources.

The purpose of this bill is to provide funding to conduct a market assessment study to validate the feasibility of starting a basalt fiber and a basalt rebar manufacturing industry in Hawai'i.

We strongly urge you to support HB1326-HD2

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Romo".

Rodrigo Romo
Program Manager
PISCES