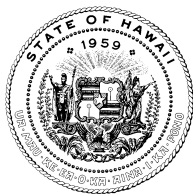


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TODD NACAPUY
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
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ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
TODD NACAPUY
Chief Information Officer, State of Hawai'i

Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS
Friday, February 3, 2017; 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

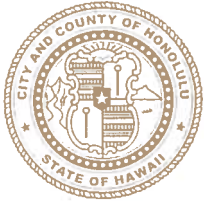
Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I am Todd Nacapuy, Chief Information Officer of the State of Hawai'i and head of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), testifying in **support** of House Bill No. 1329, Relating to Technology Development, which appropriates funds to the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) for grants to participants in the 2017 and 2018 Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge (HACC) so that the proofs of concept created during the challenges can be developed into prototypes.

The inaugural HACC, held in summer 2016, was the result of collaboration across public and private sectors. In coordinating the event, ETS partnered with HTDC and various other departments and agencies, as well as community partners, to engage the local tech community in ensuring an efficient, effective and open government. The event also provided opportunities for participating individuals and teams to network and showcase their skills to the public and private-sector professional communities, as well as explore career opportunities within the State itself. Approximately 220 coders and innovators attended the kickoff for the month-long competition, with 27 teams presenting solutions aimed at tackling challenges that ranged from addressing homelessness, to providing a database helping businesses find locally grown or produced products, to improving jail facility visitation scheduling.

ETS looks forward to continuing to work with HTDC and our other partners to ensure success for future HACC events.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

CAROL FUKUNAGA

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 6
PHONE: 768-5006 FAX: 768-5011
EMAIL: cafukunaga@honolulu.gov

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY OF COUNCILMEMBER CAROL FUKUNAGA
IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1329, RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of ***HB1329, Relating to Technology Development***. This measure establishes a program under High Tech Development Corporation to provide grants and mentorship to teams that develop proof of concepts resulting from the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge (HACC).

As one of the legislators whose district has included numerous homeless encampments and sit-lie enforcement issues, I was glad to see Kimo Carvalho of Institute for Human Services and State Homeless Coordinator Scott Morishige work together to identify specific challenges they wanted to address during the HACC competition.

We closely followed the progress of the coding teams who tackled the need for a mobile app that citizens could use to transmit information about someone in need to the appropriate provider or government agency, as well as an app that could provide easy-to-access information about homeless services available to assist individual clients. It was exciting to see how creative the finalists' proposals were, and appreciate the careful analysis that went into understanding the nonprofit provider's operations and logistical requirements. Can you imagine what a big difference an easy-to-use mobile app could make in helping to solve homelessness?

However, advancing beyond a proof of concept to a meaningful application is where ***HB 1329*** is a greatly-needed next step. In the instance of nonprofit homeless services providers like IHS, I can't imagine them developing a full-blown mobile app product when their employees are working 24/7 to relocate individuals and families into supportive housing and services. City or state agencies that oversee homeless services programs are often equally constrained by time, resource and expertise limitations.

Short-term Hackathons like the HACC are a great start towards producing proof of concepts, but we cannot rely on them for development of complete products. This grant program bridges the known gap between proof of concept, prototype and commercial product.

I urge your adoption of ***HB 1329, Relating to Technology Development***.



Statement of: **Brendan Brennan, Chief Executive Officer, Moonshot Incubator**
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

The Moonshot Incubator offers their **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

As educators, researchers, parents and citizens, we at the Moonshot Incubator feel it is imperative that young people are given the guidance to turn their Moonshot ideas and solutions to community challenges into startup companies or nonprofit organizations. Too many times great ideas are lost in the lab because they lack the resources and help to scale them and bring them to market. These grants will help budding entrepreneurs turn their **What ifs** into **What's Next**.

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.

Many thanks,

Brendan Brennan
CEO Moonshot Incubator

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony on HB 1329 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Kāne and I serve as the chair of the board of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in improving government for every citizen for every service on every island. THG works to ensure that the benefits of the State of Hawai'i's business transformation and information technology modernization initiative ("the transformation") are fully realized. Our members, who are from all corners of the state, are united in the belief that there are opportunities for everyone to support better state government.

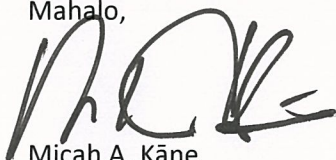
We recognize the state Legislature for its pivotal role in this transformation and we support transformation in its many forms – from improvements to the state's information technology infrastructure including more robust cybersecurity; to improvements in the state's business processes including improving access to services, making services more user-friendly, speeding up transactions when residents do business with the state, making state government more transparent, and providing up-to-date and accurate data for better decision-making.

Therefore, we are writing in **support** of HB 1329, relating to technology development. This bill appropriates funds for grants to participants in the 2017 and 2018 Hawaii annual code challenge so that the proof of concepts created during the challenges can be developed into prototypes and requires matching funds. We believe it is an important signal of the state's commitment to technology development.

We look forward to helping to promote streamlining, integrating and delivering government services that exceed the expectations of the public and the needs of Hawai'i's communities. And we seek opportunities to work together to achieve our state's transformation goals.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for the transformation.

Mahalo,



Micah A. Kāne
Director and Chairman
Transform Hawai'i Government Board

EST. 1988

HVCA

HAWAII VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION

Statement of
Melialani James
President
Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA)

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.

In consideration of
HB1329 RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

The Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) **strongly supports** HB1329 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).

Since its founding in 1988, the Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) has stood as a nexus for entrepreneurs, capital foundation, and networking opportunities in Hawaii. Fostering entrepreneurship through education and exposure to prime members of our business community continues to be our goal as we strive to grow a vibrant and successful venture community.

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 our comments on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:18 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: lauren@reef.vc
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1329 on Feb 3, 2017 09:15AM

HB1329

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 3, 2017 09:15AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Primiano	Reef Capital Ventures	Support	No

Comments: Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business: Reef Capital Ventures stands in support of HB 1329, which establishes a program to provide grants and mentorship to teams that develop proof of concepts resulting from the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge (HACC). The HACC is an important event and has been very well received by public and private stakeholders of Hawaii's innovation and startup community. Teams participating in the HACC have gone on to produce technologies that create significant value for government operations, and have the potential to be further commercialized. Regarding this last point, HB 1329 would provide crucial funding to enable HACC teams to pursue their projects beyond HACC and form a startup business to commercialize their tech for broader markets. These startups can then plug into the existing infrastructure of workforce development, accelerator programs and venture capital funds to support the further growth and ultimate success of their Hawaii-based business. This activity strengthens the existing efforts of growing our innovation economy, which have been successfully funded and supported by the HI Growth Initiative, University of Hawaii system, 80/80 initiative, Hawaii Business Roundtable and Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. Continued funding of these programs, as well as new initiatives such as HB 1329, are paramount to the continued growth of Hawaii's innovation economy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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



Late

Written Statement of
Robbie Melton
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Friday, February 3, 2017
9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB1329 that Appropriates funds for grants to participants in the 2017 and 2018 Hawaii annual code challenge so that the projects created during the challenges can be developed into prototypes. Requires matching funds.

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. The Hawaii Annual Code Challenge is a "hackathon" style competition aimed at promoting civic engagement, open government, and finding innovative solutions for some of government's challenges. Hackathon events are designed to rapidly create early proof of concept projects of potential solutions without regard to quality control testing, optimization, or completeness. The rapid development allows teams to present their ideas for user input and feedback. This technique is often used as an agile approach to commercial software development with subsequent iterations providing optimization and quality control.

While the primary goals of the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge (HACC) is to engage the local tech community in the modernization of Hawaii state government, there are greater opportunities to develop some of the projects into solutions that government can benefit from. HB1329 appropriates funds to build upon the success of the HACC. HB1329 will also assist in strengthening the tech community.

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.

Statement of: Jason Sewell, Co-Founder/Curriculum Developer, DevLeague
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of

HB1329

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

DevLeague would like to offer our **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

DevLeague is the state's first and only Accelerated Learning Program/Boot Camp for Software Developers. Over the past three and a half years we have participated, hosted or collaborated on most software related challenges and events and strongly believe in the value that these kind of events bring to the growing innovation sector here in Hawai'i.

Through these events, we have seen many great ideas start but often not have the means or the mentorship to come to maturity. Had some of these ideas had the means to live on past the event there is real potential in some of them growing into profitable or sustainable companies that create high tech jobs, address local or national issues as a model for success, and continue to create a diverse tech economy and keep local talent here at home.

DevLeague was happy to work as a partner in the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge as a pro bono partner, simply for the promise of the event of bringing together the State and the community to address real issues and present solutions to the people and personnel who needed them most. In its first year, we saw higher turnout numbers than any other event we have done over the last 3.5 years. The sole difference not being prize money, household names or anything of the like, but rather it gave citizens the chance to make a difference in the place they love and care for.

Upon completion of the event in its first year, state departments were truly impressed with the solutions presented to them and were curious how they could take the ideas presented to them and turn them into reality in order to help them and their departments do their jobs more efficiently and serve their stakeholders more effectively.

This was where the follow on challenge presented itself however. While local civic minded individuals truly wanting to help the State, they however cannot devote the extended time necessary to take a prototype to production ready and see it through to implementation. They are willing to help, and have the capability to present technical solutions to the state at a truly reasonable cost and higher quality, compared to large consulting firms with no vested interest beyond signing on the dotted line. The people care, they want to help, and they can help. They just need to be met in the middle.

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.



Statement of: **Brendan Brennan, Chief Executive Officer, Moonshot Incubator**
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

The Moonshot Incubator offers their **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

As educators, researchers, parents and citizens, we at the Moonshot Incubator feel it is imperative that young people are given the guidance to turn their Moonshot ideas and solutions to community challenges into startup companies or nonprofit organizations. Too many times great ideas are lost in the lab because they lack the resources and help to scale them and bring them to market. These grants will help budding entrepreneurs turn their **What ifs** into **What's Next**.

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.

Many thanks,

Brendan Brennan
CEO Moonshot Incubator

Statement of: Steven Sakata, Individual
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of

HB1329

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

I offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

This program is just one of the needed activities to foster and grow our local software development community. Jobs and projects that use software development skills can be delivered nationally and globally allowing jobs to stay in Hawaii and can use existing office space and building facilities.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:40 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: ryanozawa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1329 on Feb 3, 2017 09:15AM

HB1329

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 3, 2017 09:15AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business: The first Hawaii Annual Code Challenge (HACC) exceeded expectations across the board, from the level of interest and engagement from the local tech and software development community to the openness of government agencies to pitch and work with them to build solutions. It was clear a robust and valuable resource was tapped to help government serve its community better, with the help of the community itself. I support HB1329 to strengthen and solidify the framework that allowed the first HACC to succeed, and more importantly, to build out a solid runway that allows departments and developers to take their prototype and turn them into finished, functional, valuable solutions.

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.

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

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

I offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 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.

Statement of: Ben Ward, Engineer, Real Geeks
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on
Economic Development and Business:

I offer my Strong Support for HB1329 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).

The first Hawaii Annual Code Challenge was a great opportunity to work projects that address the current needs of our state and it's citizens. We had a really big turnout and I would like to see some of the work implemented.

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.

Statement of: Andrew Wong, Software Developer
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

I, Andrew Wong, offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

As we can attest to, many state offices are understaffed, but have huge potential to gain from improvements in technology. The HACC hackathon provides many state offices with the opportunity to try new ideas without the risk of onboarding a large staff that may or may not receive continued funding.

As a participant of this year's hackathon, we helped our "client" (Jobs for Disabled Citizens) further refine their problem, as well as propose solutions to the pitch that they presented. Working with these clients has, for the most part, been overwhelmingly powerful.

Providing continued funding for this activity would certainly help to catalyze innovation and provide a pathway for these prototypes to get implemented. This program also encourages civic engagement and encourages the collaboration between the community and government.

Also, supporting this grant program would help to bridge the known gap between proof of concept, prototype and commercial product, further stimulating the Hawaii Tech Startup community.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



Statement of: **Burt Lum, Individual**
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1329
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

I, Burt Lum, offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

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.

As a co-host of Bytemarks Cafe on Hawaii Public Radio and as the Executive Director of Hawaii Open Data, a non-profit dedicated to advancing open data principles, I've seen the growth of startups, meetups, hackathons, collaborations and innovations across the Hawaii business landscape. This vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem is critical to building a sustained technology sector and I believe this program to support code challenge prototypes is another key component of this ecosystem.

HB1329 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. It not only offers a pathway for the development of civic tech but also enables the teams to evolve into startup businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

LATE

Statement of:

McKay H Davis

Co-Captain of Code for Hawaii

Co-Founder of Radial3D Inc.

Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of

HB1329

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

I offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 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).

Over the past few years, I have put much effort forward to help grow the civic tech community in the State of Hawaii. These efforts include organizing Code for Hawaii meetups and being a proud participant in the first HACC event. I believe that this legislation will help the civic tech community as a whole by offering more support to the amazing work that comes out of these community efforts.

The Hawaii Annual Code Challenge is a unique opportunity for the civic 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.