

HB-1959

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 11:02:13 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Ke Kaua! We are in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

HB-1959

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 12:01:25 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, January 26, 2018
10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1958, RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

To the Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair; the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 1958, relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 1958 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 1958 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it promotes the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, small businesses and innovation. DPH "recognizes that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offer immense potential for our community, government, including institutions of higher education and business sectors. DPH encourages synergistic research, development, commercialization and educational programs that promote technological proficiency and innovation. DPH supports Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs of our state. DPH also support[s] programs that facilitate incubator, i.e., start-up opportunities for new and promising technologies and encourages the local retention of our intellectual resources." (DPH Platform, Lines 148-156 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 1958 authorizes HTDC to issue phase II and III awards in the form of convertible note loans which encourages Hawaii small business innovation research programs of the Hawaii technology development corporation, increases the competitiveness of small businesses in Hawaii, attracts additional federal dollars into the State, and helps Hawaii businesses to transform their research into innovative commercial products and services, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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Statement of
Karl K. Fooks
President

Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Friday, January 26, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In support of

HB 1959
RELATING TO INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

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

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) **supports** HB 1959, which expands the duties and functions of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to include innovative activity development. DBEDT's mission is to support the development of a Hawaii economy that embraces innovation; an economy that is globally competitive, dynamic and productive; and provides opportunities for all Hawaii's citizens.

HSDC defers to DBEDT on the specifics relating to this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

Friday, January 26, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 1959
RELATING TO INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB 1959, which expands the duties and functions of DBEDT to include innovative activity development. DBEDT's mission is to support the development of a Hawaii economy that embraces innovation; an economy that is globally competitive, dynamic and productive; and provides opportunities for all Hawaii's citizens.

DBEDT appreciates that this measure will underscore the importance DBEDT has placed, over the past several years, on fostering innovative activities as the best economic development strategy to create high wage job opportunities and to sustain the competitiveness of Hawaii's economy. DBEDT suggests a couple of amendments to HB 1959 to clarify the intent of the bill:

- Page 2, Line 18: "expand and diversify Hawaii's economy, including but not limited to"
- Page 3, Line 14: "or visitor-oriented events ~~not~~ having a business".

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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January 26, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1959
RELATING TO INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

Room 309
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 1959, which expands the duties and functions of DBEDT to include innovative activity.

One of the biggest shortcomings of Hawaii's agriculture is its overdependence on labor. Other countries throughout the world; for example, in Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam, have increased their mechanization capacity on lands similar to ours in Hawaii -- small, irregular shaped plots, and uneven terrain. Hawaii's capacity to be competitive in a price-conscious consumer market is dependent on managing costs. Labor is one of our major costs and these excessive costs can be a deterrent to aspiring young farmers who are considering agriculture as a career choice.

This measure seeks to encourage innovative activity grants. Because farmers are skeptics and cautious of the unknown, funding new and beneficial practices as demonstrations or developing practices for implementation by farmers will fill an important gap in expanding agriculture in Hawaii.

We respectfully request your support of HB1959, that includes agriculture as a sector within which to encourage innovative activity development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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HB-1959

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 5:50:00 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	HFBF	Support	No

Comments: