



March 12, 2018

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology

RE: Testimony on HB 2080, HD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in improving government services for every Hawaii resident on every island. THG strongly supports HB 2080, HD1, Relating to Technology Development, which establishes a program to be administered by the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to provide grants and mentorship to teams that develop proof of concepts resulting from application challenges.

These challenges, such as the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge and the Agricultural code challenge known as the AGathon, engage the technology development community and state government agencies in collaborative efforts to develop innovative solutions to an array of issues facing our state. Application challenges are intended to generate proofs of concepts, but not complete or even prototype products. Without additional resources, the fruition of these proofs of concepts and their potential benefits cannot be realized.

The appropriation provided by this measure bridges the existing gap between a proof of concept, a prototype and a commercial product. Moreover, it not only creates a pathway for the development of civic technology but also enables the teams themselves to evolve into startup businesses. Accordingly, these challenges, when coupled with the appropriation provided by this measure, further both business and workforce development in our state. THG also supports the provisions regarding the use of funds for the identified purposes and the prescribed leveraging of matching funds to extend the impact of this appropriation.

In addition, THG supports Hawaii State government efforts to develop and implement a long-term IT strategic plan to modernize and improve service quality and citizen satisfaction; empower the State's workforce to earn living wages in an ever-increasingly technology-dependent economy; secure citizens' data and information entrusted to agencies; and promote overall effectiveness, efficiency and transparency in government operations and expenditure of taxpayer funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide THG's input on this important bill.



March 12, 2018

Statement of: **Burt Lum, Executive Director, Hawaii Open Data**
Testimony presented before the

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

Monday, March 12, 2018, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
HB2080 HD1
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

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

I, Burt Lum, Executive Director of Hawaii Open Data, offer my **Strong Support** for HB2080 HD1 that establishes a program to be administered by the Hawaii Tech Development Corporation to provide grants and mentorship to teams that develop proof of concepts resulting from hackathons and code challenges in Hawaii.

These code challenges are a unique opportunity for the tech and startup community to collaborate with government departments and industry sectors to develop innovative solutions to some of the pressing 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 sustainable technology sector and I believe this program to support application prototypes is another key component of this ecosystem.

HB2080 HD1 is necessary because hackathons like the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge, even after 30-days, only produce at best, proof of concepts that 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 a startup businesses and to drive economic development in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.