

Statement of  
**Warren Doi**  
before the  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211



In consideration of  
**HB2084**  
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Please know that I have dedicated my professional life to helping build an innovation-based future here at home because it can be an important part of economic prosperity throughout our community.

Being a local entrepreneur in addition to having 10 years of experience starting companies in the Silicon Valley, I now help others find their own success through the Neighbor Island Innovation Initiative (NI3). My entire family history can be classified as a “kama’aina come home” story. After graduating from Cal Poly in the early 1990’s, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in the global technology boom. I was a management consultant for Ernst & Young in London before I ventured into the startup world in the San Francisco Bay Area. The NI3 program allows me to bring this knowledge and experience home. In my opinion, the people of Hawaii have not shared enough in the prosperity of the global innovation economy. Every day, we strive to bring more prosperity to Hawaii. The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation is diversifying our economy by developing a flourishing technology industry that provides quality, high-paying jobs for Hawaii residents. HB2084 will directly help entrepreneurs and small business owners; in the first year alone, the program reported an economic impact of over \$6,000,000. Please continue to support this worthwhile program for the future of Hawaii. Its value might be summarized best by those directly impacted (refer to the testimony from entrepreneurs on video): <https://vimeo.com/228912346>

The Neighbor Island Initiative (NI3) program uniquely fills a gap in the available resources of support because the program provides mentorship with experience specific to technology and manufacturing businesses. The program also provides an on-island representative with direct access to many State resources. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.