

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

465

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 991  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Economic Development, to which was referred  
H.B. No. 991 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the per-grant cap for awards to assist businesses applying for the Small Business Innovation Research Grant Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Program; and
- (2) Adds the purchasing of renewable energy systems as an eligible expense, and clarifies that training on both new and existing manufacturing equipment is an eligible expense, for the Manufacturing Development Grant Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Hawaii Technology Development Corporation; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc.; and Hawaii Food Industry Association.

2023-1599 HB991 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation aims to encourage and assist new applicants to compete for available federal Small Business Innovation Research Grant Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Program funds. Businesses applying for these federal grants may be awarded up to \$3,000 for grant writing assistance to increase their chance of success in being awarded the grants. However, because of increased costs, the \$3,000 maximum amount is no longer sufficient. Increasing the maximum amount of funds that a business may be awarded for grant writing assistance will encourage more businesses to pursue federal grant funds.

Your Committee also finds that clarifying that training on both new and existing manufacturing equipment is an eligible expense for the Manufacturing Development Grant Program will increase workforce productivity and wages. Additionally, adding the purchasing of renewable energy systems as an eligible expense for the Manufacturing Development Grant Program will help manufacturers offset high energy costs in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the per-grant cap for awards to an unspecified amount; and
- (2) Changing its effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider \$6,000 as the per-grant cap for awards to a business.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 991, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 991, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Economic  
Development,

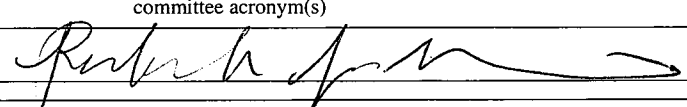
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DANIEL HOLT, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Economic Development

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB991</b>	Committee Referral: <b>ECD, FIN</b>	Date: <b>2/10/2023</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
ECD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HOLT, Daniel (C)	/			
2. LAMOSAO, Rachele F. (VC)	/			
3. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia	/			
4. KONG, Sam Satoru	/			
5. NAKAMURA, Nadine K.	/			
6. QUINLAN, Sean				/
7. PIERICK, Elijah	/			
<b>TOTAL (7)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				