



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

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Statement of  
**CHRIS J. SADAYASU**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB1297**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee. The Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB1297 an administration bill that establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the area of economic diversification, appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to implement specific projects that address those goals, and requires HTDC to submit annual reports to the legislature.

DBEDT believes that the State should accelerate economic diversification efforts as part of the economic recovery. Through public private partnerships, HTDC programs provide leverage to the State. DBEDT looks forward to working with HTDC and all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Written Statement of  
**Len Higashi**  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee On Energy, Economic Development, And Tourism**  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
1:02 p.m.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB1297**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** SB1297 that establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the area of economic diversification, appropriates funds to HTDC to implement specific projects that address those goals, and requires HTDC to submit annual reports to the legislature.

HTDC core programs develop infrastructure, capital, and talent to facilitate the development of technology and manufacturing jobs in Hawai'i. Following our mission, HTDC programs aim to provide technical and financial support for innovative small businesses from the startup stage through growth and export. HTDC programs are coordinated with other Department of Economic, Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and University of Hawaii (UH) programs to maximize their effectiveness.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, HTDC ramped up new programs such as the \$10 million Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Chain program, appropriated by the legislature and a \$600 thousand digital marketing and e-commerce training, funded by the federal Economic Development Administration. HTDC is currently administering the \$62 million Hawai'i Small Business Capital Program (HI-CAP), funded by the U.S. Treasury, with \$500 thousand support from the State, to provide access to capital to small businesses. These programs demonstrate HTDC's ability to administer new programs.

This HTDC omnibus bill provides a framework to accelerate economic diversification efforts through substantial, strategic, coordinated investments. The bill aligns individual projects toward larger state objectives with input from the community and ensures transparency and accountability with predetermined reporting requirements and objectives. HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.