JAN 2 4 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.

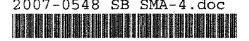
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology) 1 2 project originated in Arkansas in 1995 and was the result of a close collaboration between industry, school districts, 3 4 community organizations, and institutions of higher learning. 5 The components for schools participating in the project EAST 6 program include: 7 Involving business partners to provide technology to (1)8 rural areas through industry donations of hardware, software, and technical assistance: 10 (2) Partnering the business sector with school districts 11 and universities to develop and implement high 12 technology curriculum and methodology for kindergarten 13 to sixteen year-old students; 14 (3) Creating and implementing confidence-building 15 curricula steeped in emerging technologies so that

students can become life-long thinkers, learners, and

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1		problem solvers, regardless of their socio-economic
2		backgrounds or prior academic achievements; and
3	(4)	Creating an effective program from which students can
4		use the latest hardware and software applications to
5		apply to real world applications through the execution
6		and proficiency in computer aided design,
7		visualization, computer generated animation, database
8		design, webpage design, programming, office
9		automation, global positioning systems, and
10		geographical information systems.
11	During the 2000-2001 academic year, two of Maui's most	
12	technical	ly-challenged high schools adopted EAST programs.
13	Within one	e year, Lahainaluna High School went from being ranked
14	as one of the least technologically proficient schools in the	
15	State, to	being named the best EAST project nationwide. Since
16	then, Maui has added EAST programs in several schools with	
17	outstanding results. Project EAST is currently in eight schools	
18	throughou	t the State - five on Maui and one on Molokai, Kauai
19	(Aloha 'I	ke Program), and the Big Island. Oahu schools have
20	shown grea	at interest in adopting and establishing EAST programs
21	in its cu	rriculum. Currently four Oahu pre-EAST schools have
22	strong ro	botics programs, LEGO leagues, and botballs.



1 The cost of each EAST program is approximately \$100,000 per 2 school (not counting direct costs of technology equipment and 3 supplies, which are generally donated by business partners). 4 The benefits of student achievement in technology expertise far 5 outweigh the costs per individual school. The Women in 6 Technology Project has endorsed and joined forces with project 7 EAST schools because the program offers the kind of science, 8 technology, engineering, and math learning environments that are 9 needed for girls to remain interested in science- and math-10 related careers. 11 Women in Technology organizes a series of career days and 12 special events every year on intermediate, high school, and 13 college campuses to introduce project-based learning with 14 participation by project EAST students and teachers. Science 15 Day at the Capitol has been held for the past four years and 16 features project EAST school presentations, educates 17 legislators, businesses, and academia, and features department 18 of education teachers and project EAST trainers. 19 Each year, the Women in Technology program organizes and 20 pays for department of education professionals to complete

project EAST training. Currently the department of education

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1 does not pay the annual license fee for project EAST programs, 2 which is approximately \$4,000 for each project EAST school. 3 In 2004, the legislature established the Hawaii 3Ts school 4 technology laboratories fund under Act 218, Session Laws of 5 Hawaii 2004. The 3Ts fund was modeled after the Hawaii 3R's school repair and maintenance fund established in 2001 for 6 Hawaii public schools to meet the formidable backlog of repair 7 8 and maintenance of its facilities. Act 218 supports potentially 9 successful private-public economic initiatives by establishing 10 the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund outside of the state treasury for the continuation and expansion of the 11 project EAST initiatives or similar programs on all islands. 12 Approximately two hundred seventy students have enrolled in 13 project EAST programs over the past four years of project EAST's 14 15 existence in Hawaii with the endorsement and assistance from the Women in Technology program. Project EAST's influence has 16 touched at least two thousand five hundred students statewide by 17 18 stimulating new interest through its attendance and

participation at science and technology events, such as

robotics, LEGO league, academic decathlon, regional and national

competitions, and positive press.

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- 1 Eighty per cent of project EAST students are pursuing
- 2 higher educational high technology directions. Furthermore,
- 3 within the past four years of the program's development,
- 4 approximately seventy-five per cent of the technical and non-
- 5 technical jobs on Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island can be
- 6 directly attributable to project EAST. This percentage will
- 7 increase exponentially as the project expands on Oahu.
- 8 Project EAST and its influence continues to make an impact
- 9 on education in Hawaii. The Ho'ike Technology Foundation
- 10 challenge grant of \$50,000 is expected to generate more private
- 11 sector interest and program participation for schools on Oahu.
- 12 Programs are tentatively projected for Oahu high schools with
- 13 feeder middle and elementary schools that are heavily involved
- 14 in robotics training. Furthermore, two major national forums
- 15 are taking place in Honolulu in 2007: the National Botball
- 16 Symposium in April 2007 and the National Conference on Education
- 17 Robotics in July, 2007. The July conference is expected to
- 18 attract thousands of interested individuals.
- 19 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds into the
- 20 Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund for the purpose
- 21 of expanding project EAST programs to Oahu, and growing project
- 22 EAST programs on the neighbor islands.

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There is appropriated out of the general 1 SECTION 2. revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so 2 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for 3 deposit into the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund 4 5 established pursuant to section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised 6 Statutes; provided that no funds shall be expended unless 7 matching funds are provided. 8 The Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund shall be 9 administered by Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc., in accordance with section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes, 10 or in partnership with county economic development boards for 11 12 the purposes of this Act. 13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007. 14 INTRODUCED BY: Thrann Chun Qalland

Report Title:

Project EAST; Technology Training; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds into the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund for the economic development alliance of Hawaii to expand project EAST programs to public schools.