

Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Testimony By: Cindy Goldstein

SB 1096sd2, Relating to Technology Workforce and Development

House FIN Committee

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Room 308, 4:30 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House FIN Committee:

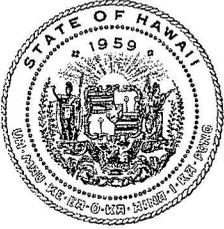
My name is Cindy Goldstein, Government Relations Chair of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

Appreciation is expressed for this bold measure in these economic times. SB 1096sd2 is an investment for the future of Hawaii's young people, as well as for the well being of Hawaii as a science, technology and innovation state.

As Hawaii looks at ways to diversify the economy, and develop our science and technology sector that offers higher paying jobs, investment and support of the named programs that encourages students to develop an interest in science goes hand-in-hand with these goals.

The seed industry, as is the case for many technology companies, are finding it difficult to fill science and technology jobs. We look at and support a range of ways to encourage more of Hawaii's young people to pursue studies and jobs in science and technology to meet our needs for employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

4:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 1096 SD2

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE AND DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Chang, Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 1096 SD2 which provides funding for STEM and creative media programs, but prefers that these measures be funded through the budget. We deeply appreciate the Legislature's commitment to these programs as critical to providing Hawaii's students with the kind of education that will help them be successful in today's economy. As indicated in the bill, these programs have been very successful. A brief summary of the status of the Act 111 (SLH 2007) and Act 271 (SLH 2007) programs, the Music and Entertainment Learning Experience (MELE) program, and the Creativity Academies is attached to our testimony.

The Administration also is committed to the success of these programs and included funding for them in its Biennium Budget. Recognizing the fiscal constraints that the State is facing, DBEDT worked closely with the University of Hawaii (UH) and Project EAST program managers to develop budgets that would maintain programs at their current levels or provide for limited expansion. This approach would preserve the program structures and the momentum that has been gained with your support. However, we have learned that HB 200 HD1 deleted this

funding. We strongly encourage you to restore the funding in the budget, because we believe that providing the funding through the budget is most appropriate for the following reasons:

1. It is already accounted for in the financial plan;
2. It will expedite the use of the funding administered by UH if it is in the UH budget and doesn't have to go through the UH and Administration release processes; and
3. It will move the programs toward sustainability, with the ability to do long-term planning, to have them in the Administration budget, rather than dependent on separate appropriations every biennium.

The following requests were contained in each fiscal year of the Administration's budget:

1. \$1,102,000 for the FIRST Pre-academy program for robotics and the Research Experience for Teachers program;
2. \$175,000 for STEM professional development programs; and
3. \$624,000 for Project EAST.

In addition to the programs mentioned specifically in this bill, the Administration's budget also included the following to support creative media programs:

1. \$690,00 for the MELE program; and
2. \$1,600,000 for Creativity Academies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance

April 8, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Peter Crouch, Dean

College of Engineering

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1096 SD2 RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1096, SD2 to appropriate funds for science-, technology-, engineering- and math-related programs. We recognize and respect the importance of these programs to ensuring the success of Hawai'i's students in the global economy by offering support for innovative educational programs in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and to prepare students for further education and employment.

While we strongly support these programs, the current and projected budget reductions for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa require us to make difficult choices, just as the Hawaii Legislature has to do. While many programs, especially those in SB 1096, are definitely worthy, not all can be funded, and we must base our decisions on the basis of campus priorities – the highest of which continues to be our tremendous need in the area of repairs and maintenance. This is defined in the Board of Regents' approved budget and reflects the critical importance of repairs and maintenance to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. Therefore, while we both have been very supportive and involved with these efforts, we can currently only support the concept proposed in this bill at this time.

We definitely appreciate and share the interest expressed in this legislation for supporting students' interest in pursuing math/science and technology careers. In addition to existing College of Engineering programs that provide support in these areas, UH Mānoa's Stan Sheriff Center is proud to host the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics teams' regional tournament. We agreed to host the 38-team competition at no charge in 2008 and have recently extended this agreement for another three years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.