



**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 HIGHER EDUCATION**  
and the  
**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
2:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

LATE TESTIMONY

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.

LATE TESTIMONY

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2009

Committee: House Higher Education/Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 1096, S.D. 2 (SSCR 655), Relating to Technology Workforce and Development

Purpose: Appropriates funds for science-, technology-, engineering-, and math-related programs and K-12 creative media education programs.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. No. 1096, S.D. 2 (SSCR 655) provided it does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. It is in Hawaii's best interest to continue the expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-related programs, Research Experiences for Teachers (RET), and the K-12 creative media education programs. The Department recommends that STEM-related programs be expanded to include Career and Technical Education pathways. On page seven, section 6, the Department asks that the Legislature consider reinstating the support for K-12 STEM-related programs in addition to the K-12 after-school creative media education initiatives.