



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 25, 2016
11:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

HB 2714, HD1
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of this measure to appropriate State funds for a basalt rebar market study.

The funding requested through this bill would support a detailed market assessment of the viability of basalt rebar to serve as a new emerging high technology industry for the State. Central to this vision is the ability of basalt rebar, made from basalt extruded fibers manufactured in China and Russia, and procured through several American companies who purchase these fibers from which to construct the rebar, to replace imported steel/iron rebar for construction (as a reinforcing rod in concrete), thereby providing lighter and stronger rods that would eliminate rust associated with steel/iron rebar.

The long-term possibility would be for companies to establish operations in Hawaii to manufacture basalt rebar from local volcanic rock. Establishing a new generation of basalt rebar manufacturing in the United States (and eventually in Hawaii) would also align with the "America Competes Act," promoting investment in innovation through research and development that, in turn, would enhance U.S. competitiveness in world markets.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.