



Statement of
Robbie Melton
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor
And
Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211
In consideration of

SB3011 SD1

RELATING TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports with requested amendments** SB3011 SD1 that makes an appropriation to the High Technology Development Corporation for the provision of technology internship grants and development of programs to support the local talent pipeline for the technology industry.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at strengthening the local talent pipeline for the technology industry.

The bill requests HTDC to provide grants to companies which would require more specific language to implement. Instead, HTDC respectfully suggests the following changes to Section 2 of the bill which would clarify that the funding provided would be specific to funding internship opportunities at technology companies.

"SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$125,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund technology **internships** and the development of programs to further the pipeline of talent in Hawaii for technology fields, which may include skills assessment, program development, seminars, and training; provided that no **intern** shall receive more than \$1,250 per year and no company shall receive more than \$2,500 per year for this purpose."

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.