



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room #423 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB999
RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao and members of the Committee. The Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB999, an administration bill that establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the area of economic diversification, appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to implement specific projects that address those goals, and requires HTDC to submit annual reports to the legislature.

DBEDT believes that the State should accelerate economic diversification efforts as part of the economic recovery. Through public private partnerships, HTDC programs provide leverage to the State. DBEDT looks forward to working with HTDC and all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-999

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:46:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/8/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee On Economic Development
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB999
RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB999 that establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the area of economic diversification, appropriates funds to HTDC to implement specific projects that address those goals, and requires HTDC to submit annual reports to the legislature.

HTDC core programs develop infrastructure, capital, and talent to facilitate the development of technology and manufacturing jobs in Hawai'i. Following our mission, HTDC programs aim to provide technical and financial support for innovative small businesses from the startup stage through growth and export. HTDC programs are coordinated with other Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and University of Hawaii (UH) programs to maximize their effectiveness.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, HTDC ramped up new programs such as the \$10 million Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Chain program, appropriated by the legislature and a \$600 thousand digital marketing and e-commerce training, funded by the federal Economic Development Administration. HTDC is currently administering the \$62 million Hawai'i Small Business Capital Program (HI-CAP), funded by the U.S. Treasury, with \$500 thousand support from the State, to provide access to capital to small businesses. These programs demonstrate HTDC's ability to administer new programs.

This HTDC omnibus bill provides a framework to accelerate economic diversification efforts through substantial, strategic, coordinated investments. The bill aligns individual projects toward larger state objectives with input from the community and ensures transparency and accountability with predetermined reporting requirements and objectives. HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

HB-999

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:22:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/8/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kawaihani Ozawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I apologize for this late testimony. I **support HB999** and support the important mission and work of the HTDC. Insofar as this bill provides critical resources to advance economic diversification in Hawaii (with appropriate oversight), it must be passed. Thank you for your consideration.