

JAN 17 2025

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The Legislature finds that technology adoption  
2 for small businesses in Hawaii is vital for them to overcome a  
3 variety of critical technological challenges and remain  
4 competitive in an increasingly digital marketplace. Leveraging  
5 technology can help small businesses optimize operations, reduce  
6 costs, and expand their reach beyond the islands. Digital tools  
7 such as booking systems, online marketing platforms, and data  
8 analytics can help reduce costs, expand market reach, and help  
9 tourism-based businesses attract and retain customers while  
10 enhancing the overall visitor experience.  
11 The legislature further finds that technology mitigates the  
12 risks of geographic isolation by enabling remote work, virtual  
13 services, and e-commerce opportunities. Supporting small  
14 businesses with technology adoption ensures their ability to  
15 innovate and adapt, bolstering their resilience and contributing  
16 to the long-term economic sustainability of Hawaii's



1 communities. At the same time, non-action would exacerbate the  
2 State's current and potential future economic vulnerabilities.

3 The legislature additionally finds that the Hawaii  
4 technology development corporation (HTDC) was established to  
5 foster innovation and economic diversification by supporting the  
6 growth and development of the State's technology sector. With  
7 decades of experience implementing technology-driven  
8 initiatives, HTDC has successfully facilitated numerous projects  
9 funded by the State and ensured effective use of state resources  
10 with a proven track record of fostering innovation and economic  
11 diversification through state-funded initiatives, demonstrating  
12 expertise in administering grants, supporting start-ups,  
13 promoting public-private partnerships, empowering local  
14 businesses, and driving economic progress. HTDC's expertise  
15 spans a wide range of industries, enabling the effective  
16 implementation of cutting-edge technologies tailored to Hawaii's  
17 unique challenges and opportunities. HTDC's commitment to  
18 leveraging state funding for impactful tech projects underscores  
19 its role as a critical catalyst for innovation and  
20 competitiveness in Hawaii's economy.



1           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to promote economic  
2 development by:

3           (1) Appropriating funds for technology enablement for  
4           small businesses; and

5           (2) Requiring the Hawaii technology development  
6           corporation to submit a report to the legislature no  
7           later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
8           regular session of 2026.

9           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
13 2026-2027 to assist small businesses with technology enablement.

14           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
15 technology development corporation for the purposes of this Act.

16           SECTION 3. the Hawaii technology development corporation  
17 shall submit a report on the status of assisting technology  
18 enablement for small businesses related to the tourism sector to  
19 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
20 of the regular session of 2026.



S.B. NO. 989

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

2

INTRODUCED BY: Lyn Sabote



# S.B. NO. 989

**Report Title:**

HTDC; Technology Enablement; Small Businesses; Report;  
Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to assist small businesses with technology enablement. Requires a report to the Legislature.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

