
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 \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2026-2027 to assist small businesses with technology
14 enablement.

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

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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