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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY ENABLEMENT.

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

1        SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the tourism sector,  
2 a pillar of the State's economy, is highly seasonal and  
3 increasingly exposed to global economic volatility, natural  
4 disasters, public health emergencies, and rapid technological  
5 disruption. These dynamics create uneven revenue streams and  
6 heighten operating risks for small businesses, many of which  
7 operate on thin margins and lack the internal capacity to  
8 continuously adapt to changing market conditions.

9        The legislature further finds that the accelerated adoption  
10 of advanced digital tools, including artificial intelligence,  
11 data analytics, automation, and digital marketing technologies,  
12 is reshaping how tourism-related businesses manage operations,  
13 reach customers, price services, forecast demand, and respond to  
14 disruptions. Artificial intelligence-enabled tools are  
15 increasingly used across the visitor industry to optimize  
16 bookings, personalize visitor experiences, manage labor and  
17 inventory, detect fraud, automate customer service, and improve



1 decision-making in real time. Small businesses that lack access  
2 to these tools risk falling behind competitors within and  
3 outside the State.

4 The legislature additionally finds that for Hawaii-based  
5 small businesses, particularly those in the tourism sector,  
6 access to artificial intelligence-enabled and digital  
7 technologies is critical to overcoming geographic isolation,  
8 workforce constraints, and rising operating costs. Strategic  
9 technology enablement can improve productivity, reduce  
10 administrative burdens, expand market reach, support remote and  
11 hybrid business models, and enhance resilience during economic  
12 or environmental shocks. Failure to proactively support  
13 technology and artificial intelligence adoption will exacerbate  
14 existing vulnerabilities, limit competitiveness, and constrain  
15 long-term economic growth.

16 The legislature also finds that the Hawaii technology  
17 development corporation was established to foster innovation,  
18 economic diversification, and technology adoption statewide.  
19 With decades of experience administering state-funded programs,  
20 the Hawaii technology development corporation has demonstrated  
21 expertise in managing competitive grants, supporting small



1 businesses and startups, facilitating public-private  
2 partnerships, and deploying advanced technologies across  
3 multiple industries. This experience positions the corporation  
4 to effectively support responsible, practical, and outcome-  
5 driven adoption of artificial intelligence and related  
6 technologies tailored to Hawaii's unique economic and workforce  
7 needs.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to promote economic  
9 development and strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of  
10 Hawaii's tourism sector by appropriating funds to the Hawaii  
11 technology development corporation to assist small businesses,  
12 including those related to the tourism sector, with technology  
13 enablement, including the adoption of artificial intelligence  
14 and advanced digital tools.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the  
18 Hawaii technology development corporation to assist small  
19 businesses, including those related to the tourism sector, with  
20 technology enablement, including the adoption of artificial  
21 intelligence and advanced digital tools.



1        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
2 technology development corporation for the purposes of this Act.

3        SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii technology development  
4 corporation may collaborate with other state or county agencies  
5 as necessary for the implementation of any projects using the  
6 funds appropriated pursuant to this Act.

7        (b) The Hawaii technology development corporation shall  
8 submit a report to the legislature on the status of assisting  
9 small businesses, including those related to the tourism sector,  
10 with technology enablement using the funds appropriated pursuant  
11 to this Act no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
12 the regular session of 2027.

13       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



JAN 26 2026



# H.B. NO. 2211

**Report Title:**

HTDC; Small Businesses; Artificial Intelligence; Advanced Digital Tools; Technology Enablement; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to assist small businesses, including those related to the tourism sector, with technology enablement, including the adoption of artificial intelligence and advanced digital tools. Requires the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to submit a report to the Legislature.

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