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# 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 is vital for small businesses in Hawaii to overcome a variety of  
3 critical technological challenges and remain competitive in an  
4 increasingly digital marketplace. Leveraging technology can  
5 help small businesses optimize operations, reduce costs, and  
6 expand their reach beyond the islands. Digital tools such as  
7 booking systems, online marketing platforms, and data analytics  
8 can help reduce costs, expand market reach, and help tourism-  
9 based businesses attract and retain customers while enhancing  
10 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 was established to foster  
5 innovation and economic diversification by supporting the growth  
6 and development of the State's technology sector. With decades  
7 of experience implementing technology-driven initiatives, the  
8 corporation 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. The Hawaii  
15 technology development corporation's expertise spans a wide  
16 range of industries, enabling the effective implementation of  
17 cutting-edge technologies tailored to Hawaii's unique challenges  
18 and opportunities, and the corporation's commitment to  
19 leveraging state funding for impactful tech projects underscores  
20 its role as a critical catalyst for innovation and  
21 competitiveness in Hawaii's economy.



1           The legislature also finds that certain land and water use  
2 activities or construction projects may require permits issued  
3 by agencies and authorities through the facilitated application  
4 process, which is overseen by the department of business,  
5 economic development, and tourism. The process to obtain these  
6 permits can be cumbersome, particularly for small businesses,  
7 and can subject applicants to lengthy waiting periods. The  
8 legislature recognizes that there is a need to expedite these  
9 processes to ensure that economic activity is not stifled or  
10 unduly burdened by costly delays in permitting.

11           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to promote economic  
12 development by:

- 13           (1) Appropriating funds for technology enablement for  
14           small businesses and the development of project  
15           management software to simplify the facilitated  
16           application process for small businesses; and
- 17           (2) Requiring the Hawaii technology development  
18           corporation to submit a report on the status of  
19           assisting technology enablement for small businesses  
20           related to the tourism sector.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
5 year 2026-2027 to:

- 6 (1) Assist small businesses with technology enablement;
- 7 and
- 8 (2) Develop project management software to simplify the
- 9 facilitated application process for small businesses,
- 10 including a portal for applicants to apply for permits
- 11 and monitor applications.

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

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

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

HTDC; Technology Enablement; Project Management Software;  
Portal; Facilitated Application Process; Small Businesses;  
Report; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to assist small businesses with technology enablement and develop project management software to simplify the facilitated application process for small businesses. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000.  
(HD1)

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