



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e:
info@hawaiiifood.com

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Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
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TO: Committee on Tourism, Committee on Housing, and Committee on Economic Development & Tourism

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2025

TIME: 9am

RE: HB448 Relating to Technology Enablement

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. As the measure notes HTDC has successfully facilitated numerous projects funded by the State and ensured effective use of state resources with a proven track record of fostering innovation and economic diversification through state-funded initiatives, demonstrating expertise in administering grants, supporting start-ups, promoting public-private partnerships, empowering local businesses, and driving economic progress. HTDC's expertise spans a wide range of industries, enabling the effective implementation of cutting-edge technologies tailored to Hawaii's unique challenges and opportunities. HTDC is the ideal partner to assist small businesses with technology enablement and ensure that our local businesses have the technological resources they need to grow and thrive.

We encourage the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Written Statement of
Wayne Inouye
Innovate Hawai'i Center Director
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee on Tourism
and
House Committee on Housing
And
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HB448
RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chairs Tam, Evslin, and Ilagan, Vice Chairs Templo, Miyake, and Hussey,
and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports **HB448** that appropriates funds for support small business with advanced technology adoption with a focus on supporting tourism sector businesses.

HTDC was established in 1983 and is committed to fostering innovation and economic growth in Hawai'i by supporting small and medium size businesses with advance technology implementation and integration.

HTDC programs will be able to leverage its partnership with National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (NIST-MEP) to bring in new advanced technology to Hawai'i to assist small businesses with training and implementation of advance technology to foster business growth and economic sustainability so employers will be able to provide Hawai'i living wages to their employees.

HTDC will use funds to provide small businesses with access to modern digital tools and advanced technology to help optimize operations, expand to new markets, reduce manufacturing costs, to become globally competitive in a global market. HTDC will focus on Hawai'i's tourism sector businesses to first understand the challenges, then try to integrate technology to address these challenges to increase local and export sales while creating high-quality jobs while stimulating Hawai'i tourism industry for new economic growth.

HTDC believes this new initiative will positive economic development value for the State. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments



WaiHome LLC
59-477 Hoalike Road
Haleiwa, HI, 96712

Statement of
Gregory Wong
Co-Founder and New Product Introduction Engineer
WaiHome LLC
before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology, and Tourism

Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB448
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY ENABLEMENT

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo, Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, and Tourism.

WaiHome LLC **supports** HB448 that appropriates funds for support small businesses with advanced technology development and integration related to small to medium size manufacturing businesses supporting Hawaii's tourism industry.

Funds will be used to understand and implement cutting edge tools to address Hawaii's unique challenges and focus on new opportunities to grow Hawaii's locally made products. Empowering local manufacturing businesses with additional resources will help foster innovation and economic growth which will lead to thriving sectors of Hawaii's manufacturing industry. Value-added product development, renewable energy, and fashion are some of the industries that could provide the State with new economic growth.

WaiHome LLC is a small R&D company that is developing an alternative onsite wastewater treatment product that is more affordable and more eco-friendly than septic systems. Bills like this help to support our current R&D, and future manufacturing in the State of Hawaii. As a result, WaiHome can provide homeowners with affordable cesspool replacements, and minimize the effect of polluted runoff in our streams and ocean.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Wong".

Gregory Wong
Co-founder and New Product Introduction Engineer
WaiHome LLC