

**Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Education and the
Committee on Higher Education**

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By

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**HB 1082 – RELATING TO THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND
MATH INCOME TAX CREDIT**

Chair Takumi, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Berg, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the House Committees on Education and Higher Education

My name is Peter Crouch, Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Engineering.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of HB 1082 relating to a science, technology, engineering, and math income tax credit.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Engineering has been pleased to spearhead several initiatives which help to bolster Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics interest and achievement in Hawaii's youth by providing a learning continuum from middle school through post-secondary education and placement in the State's growing technology workforce.

Programs such as the Fostering Inspiration and Relevance through Science and Technology Pre-Academy, enabled in 2007-2008 by Act 111, strengthen the technology pipeline through early intervention in the educational process, by providing challenging enrichment activities and opportunities to interact with university researchers and industry partners, thus: heightening the technology knowledge and skills of our teachers, and boosting student interest and achievement in STEM subjects and their associated careers.

Today's highly competitive global marketplace intensifies the need for highly qualified technology personnel that is also intimately familiar with Hawaii's unique challenges and potential. Our constituents are demanding more in terms of workforce and a significantly enhanced research and technology transfer component that will drive substantial growth of industries requiring engineering and technology skillsets.

In this light, a sustainable system for providing STEM educational opportunities is important to the future well being of our state. While I am unable to comment on the mechanism of the tax credit system, solutions such as the one proposed could provide a means to continue our efforts in this direction, and we therefore wish to express our support of its intent.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.