The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on April 26, 2017, the following bill was signed into law:

HB147 HD1 RELATING TO AMENDING OR REPEALING HAWAII NET INCOME TAX LAWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELETING OBSOLETE OR UNNECESSARY PROVISIONS
ACT 003 (17)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AMENDING OR REPEALING HAWAII NET INCOME TAX LAWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELETING OBSOLETE OR UNNECESSARY PROVISIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 235-110.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§235-110.9 High technology business investment tax credit. (a) There shall be allowed to each taxpayer subject to the taxes imposed by this chapter a high technology business investment tax credit that shall be deductible from the taxpayer's net income tax liability, if any, imposed by this chapter for the taxable year in which the investment was made and the following four years provided the credit is properly claimed. The tax credit shall be as follows:

(1) In the year the investment was made, thirty-five per cent;

(2) In the first year following the year in which the investment was made, twenty-five per cent;

(3) In the second year following the investment, twenty per cent;
(4) In the third year following the investment, ten per cent; and

(5) In the fourth year following the investment, ten per cent;

of the investment made by the taxpayer in each qualified high technology business, up to a maximum allowed credit in the year the investment was made, $700,000; in the first year following the year in which the investment was made, $500,000; in the second year following the year in which the investment was made, $400,000; in the third year following the year in which the investment was made, $200,000; and in the fourth year following the year in which the investment was made, $200,000.

(b) The credit allowed under this section shall be claimed against the net income tax liability for the taxable year. For the purpose of this section, "net income tax liability" means net income tax liability reduced by all other credits allowed under this chapter.

(c) If the tax credit under this section exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability for any of the five years that the credit is taken, the excess of the tax credit over liability may be used as a credit against the taxpayer's income tax
liability in subsequent years until exhausted. Every claim, including amended claims, for a tax credit under this section shall be filed on or before the end of the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed. Failure to comply with the foregoing provision shall constitute a waiver of the right to claim the credit.

(d) If at the close of any taxable year in the five-year period in subsection (a):

(1) The business no longer qualifies as a qualified high technology business;

(2) The business or an interest in the business has been sold by the taxpayer investing in the qualified high technology business; or

(3) The taxpayer has withdrawn the taxpayer's investment wholly or partially from the qualified high technology business;

the credit claimed under this section shall be recaptured. The recapture shall be equal to ten per cent of the amount of the total tax credit claimed under this section in the preceding two taxable years. The amount of the credit recaptured shall apply only to the investment in the particular qualified high
technology business that meets the requirements of paragraph (1), (2), or (3). The recapture provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a tax credit claimed for a qualified high technology business that does not fall within the provisions of paragraph (1), (2), or (3). The amount of the recaptured tax credit determined under this subsection shall be added to the taxpayer's tax liability for the taxable year in which the recapture occurs under this subsection.

(e) Every taxpayer, before March 31 of each year in which an investment in a qualified high technology business was made in the previous taxable year, shall submit a written, certified statement to the director of taxation identifying:

(1) Qualified investments, if any, expended in the previous taxable year; and

(2) The amount of tax credits claimed pursuant to this section, if any, in the previous taxable year.

(f) The department shall:

(1) Maintain records of the names and addresses of the taxpayers claiming the credits under this section and the total amount of the qualified investment costs upon which the tax credit is based;
(2) Verify the nature and amount of the qualifying investments;
(3) Total all qualifying and cumulative investments that the department certifies; and
(4) Certify the amount of the tax credit for each taxable year and cumulative amount of the tax credit.

Upon each determination made under this subsection, the department shall issue a certificate to the taxpayer verifying information submitted to the department, including qualifying investment amounts, the credit amount certified for each taxable year, and the cumulative amount of the tax credit during the credit period. The taxpayer shall file the certificate with the taxpayer's tax return with the department.

The director of taxation may assess and collect a fee to offset the costs of certifying tax credits claims under this section. All fees collected under this section shall be deposited into the tax administration special fund established under section 235-20.5.

(g) As used in this section:
"Investment tax credit allocation ratio" means, with respect to a taxpayer that has made an investment in a qualified high technology business, the ratio of:

(1) The amount of the credit under this section that is, or is to be, received by or allocated to the taxpayer over the life of the investment, as a result of the investment; to

(2) The amount of the investment in the qualified high technology business.

"Qualified high technology business" means a business, employing or owning capital or property, or maintaining an office, in this State; provided that:

(1) More than fifty per cent of its total business activities are qualified research; and provided further that the business conducts more than seventy-five per cent of its qualified research in this State; or

(2) More than seventy-five per cent of its gross income is derived from qualified research; and provided further that this income is received from:
(A) Products sold from, manufactured in, or produced in this State; or

(B) Services performed in this State.

"Qualified research" means the same as defined in section 235-7.3.

(h) Common law principles, including the doctrine of economic substance and business purpose, shall apply to any investment. There exists a presumption that a transaction satisfies the doctrine of economic substance and business purpose to the extent that the special allocation of the high technology business tax credit has an investment tax credit ratio of 1.5 or less of credit for every dollar invested.

Transactions for which an investment tax credit allocation ratio greater than 1.5 but not more than 2.0 of credit for every dollar invested and claimed may be reviewed by the department for applicable doctrines of economic substance and business purpose.

Businesses claiming a tax credit for transactions with investment tax credit allocation ratios greater than 2.0 of credit for every dollar invested shall substantiate economic merit and business purpose consistent with this section.
(i) For investments made on or after May 1, 2009, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no allocations, special or otherwise, of credits under this section may exceed the amount of the investment made by the taxpayer ultimately claiming this credit; and investment tax credit allocation ratios greater than 1.0 of credit for every dollar invested shall not be allowed. In addition, the credit shall be allowed only in accordance with subsection (a).

[j] For investments made on or after May 1, 2009, this section shall be subject to section 235-109.5.

(k) This section shall not apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010."

SECTION 2. Section 241-4.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§241-4.8 High technology business investment tax credit.

(a) The high technology business investment tax credit provided under section 235-110.9 shall be operative for this chapter on July 1, 1999.

(b) For investments made on or after May 1, 2009, this section shall be subject to section 235-109.5."
SECTION 3. Section 431:7-209, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§431:7-209 High technology business investment tax credit. [(a)] The high technology business investment tax credit provided under section 235-110.9 shall be operative for this chapter on July 1, 1999.

[(b) For investments made on or after May 1, 2009, this section shall be subject to section 235-110.5-]"

SECTION 4. Section 235-2.45, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) Section 704 of the Internal Revenue Code (with respect to a partner's distributive share) shall be operative for purposes of this chapter; except that section 704(b)(2) shall not apply to:

(1) Allocations of the high technology business investment tax credit allowed by section 235-110.9 for investments made before May 1, 2009;

(2) Allocations of net operating loss pursuant to section 235-111.5;"
[(3) Allocations of the attractions and educational facilities tax credit allowed by section 235-110.46;]

or

[(4)] (3) Allocations of low-income housing tax credits among partners under section 235-110.8."

SECTION 5. Section 235-109.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

["§235-109.5—Credits against income; claim limitation.

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary providing for a tax credit that may be claimed against a taxpayer's tax liability under section 235-110.51, 235-110.9, 241-4.8, or 431-7.209 for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, and ending before January 1, 2011, no claim for these tax credits shall exceed eighty per cent of the taxpayer's tax liability for the taxable year in which the credit is claimed, and any tax credits claimed shall not result in any credit carryovers.

(b) This section shall apply to investments made, renovation costs incurred, or eligible depreciable tangible property placed in service on or after May 1, 2009."]

SECTION 6. Section 235-110.46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.
H.B. NO. 147
H.D. 1

"[§235-110.46]—Attractions and educational facilities tax
credit.—Ko Olina Resort and Marina; Makaha Resort. (a) There
shall be allowed to each qualified taxpayer subject to the taxes
imposed by this chapter or chapter 237, 237D, 238, 239, 241, or
431, a tax credit [that] may be claimed for taxable years
beginning after December 31, 2004, for qualified costs in the
development of facilities for attractions and educational
purposes at Ko Olina Resort and Marina and at Makaha Resort.
The tax credit shall be deductible from the taxpayer's net
income tax liability, if any, imposed by this chapter and, at
the election of the taxpayer, from the tax liability imposed by
chapters 237, 237D, 238, 239, 241, and 431.
(b) The tax credit earned shall be equal to the qualified
costs incurred from June 1, 2003, through May 31, 2009, up to a
maximum of $75,000,000 of credits in the aggregate for all
qualified taxpayers for all years; provided that notwithstanding
the amount of tax credits earned in any year, a maximum of
$7,500,000 of tax credits in the aggregate for all qualified
taxpayers may be used in any one taxable year. The credits over
$7,500,000 shall be used as provided in subsection (d). In the
case of a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation,
estate, trust, or association of apartment owners, the tax
credit allowable is for qualified costs incurred by the entity.
The costs upon which the tax credit is computed shall be
determined at the entity level.

(e) To qualify for the tax credit, a taxpayer shall:

(1) Have expended qualified costs on and be developing a
world-class aquarium and marine science and mammal
research facility at Ko Olina Resort and Marina, and

(2) Dedicate one-half of the net operating income of the
world-class aquarium to the State, beginning on the
first day of the seventeenth year following the year
in which the attractions and educational facilities
credit was first taken, or

(3) Acquire or own the Makaha Resort, and lease or sell a
portion of the Makaha Resort for use as training and
educational facilities for a period of not less than
six years to a taxpayer meeting the requirements of
subsection (e)(1).

(d) If the tax credit under this section exceeds
$7,500,000 in the aggregate for all qualified taxpayers for any
taxable year or exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability under this
chapter or chapters 237, 237D, 238, 239, 241, and 431 for any
year for which the credit is taken, the excess of the tax credit
may be used as a credit against the taxpayer's tax liability for
the taxes set forth in this section in subsequent years until
exhausted, provided that the taxpayer may continue to claim the
credit provided in this section if the qualified costs are
incurred before June 1, 2009, subject to the monetary ceilings
in subsection (b).
(c) Every claim, including amended claims, for a tax
credit under this section shall be filed on or before the end of
the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year for
which the credit may be claimed. Failure to comply with the
foregoing provision shall constitute a waiver of the right to
claim the credit.
(f) If, at any time during the six-year period in which
tax credits are earned under this section, the costs incurred no
longer meet the definition of qualified costs, the credits
claimed under this section shall be recaptured. The recapture
shall be equal to one hundred percent of the total tax credits
claimed under this section for the preceding taxable year,
provided that the amount of the credits recaptured shall apply
only to those costs that no longer meet the definition of
qualified costs. The amount of the recaptured tax credits
determined under this subsection shall be added to the
taxpayer's tax liability for the taxable year in which the
recapture occurs under this subsection.

(g) If any credit is claimed under this section, then no
taxpayer shall claim a credit under any chapter identified in
this section for the same qualified costs for which a credit is
claimed under this section.

(h) The director of taxation shall prepare any forms that
may be necessary to claim a credit under this section. The
director may also require the taxpayer to furnish information to
ascertain the validity of the claims for credits made under this
section and may adopt rules necessary to effectuate the purposes
of this section pursuant to chapter 91.

Every qualified taxpayer, no later than March 31 of each
year in which qualified costs were expended in the previous
taxable year, shall submit a written, certified statement to the
director of business, economic development, and tourism, in the
form specified by the director of business, economic
development, and tourism, identifying:
(1) Qualified costs, if any, expended in the previous taxable year;

(2) The amount of tax credits claimed pursuant to this section, if any, in the previous taxable year; and

(3) The tax liability under this chapter and chapters 237, 237D, 238, 239, 241, and 431 against which the tax credits are claimed.

Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, a statement submitted under this subsection shall be a public document.

(i) The department of business, economic development, and tourism shall maintain records of the names of taxpayers eligible for the credits and the total amount of qualified costs incurred from June 1, 2003, through May 31, 2009. The department of business, economic development, and tourism shall verify all qualified costs and, upon each determination, shall issue a certificate to the taxpayer certifying:

(1) The amount of the qualified costs; and

(2) The amount of tax credit that the taxpayer is allowed to use for the taxable year.

The department of business, economic development, and tourism shall certify no more than $7,500,000 in credits in the
aggregate for all taxpayers for each taxable year; provided that
the department may verify qualified costs of no more than
$75,000,000 from June 1, 2003, through May 31, 2009. The
taxpayer shall file the certificate with the taxpayer's return
with the department of taxation.

(j) As used in this section:

"Ko Olina Resort and Marina" means the six hundred forty-
two acres reclassified to urban district by Decision and Order
entered on September 12, 1985, in Docket A83-562, by the land
use commission.

"Makaha Resort" means the three hundred thirty-two acre
property identified as tax map keys (1) 8-04-002-parcels 51, 52,
53, 54, 55, and 67 and (1) 8-04-029-143.

"Qualified costs" means any costs for plans, design, and
construction, costs for equipment that is permanently affixed to
a building or structure, and acquisition of facilities for
educational purposes, up to a total of $75,000,000 in the
aggregate, incurred after May 31, 2003, and before June 1, 2009,
at either or both of:

(1) Ko Olina Resort and Marina for the development of
facilities for attractions and educational purposes,
and for infrastructure within the Ko Olina Resort and
Marina that is directly related to those facilities,
including a world-class aquarium, marine science and
mammal research facilities, international sports
training complex, a travel industry management intern
campus, infrastructure for the transfer of ocean
waters to the aquarium or marine mammal facilities, or
both, seawater air conditioning, and other educational
facilities developed or operated in cooperation with
the University of Hawaii or other educational
institutions; or

(2) Makaha Resort for the development of a training and
educational facility within a working resort and
hotel;

provided that "qualified costs" shall not include land
acquisition costs.

"Qualified taxpayer" means a person who fulfills the
requirements of subsection (c)."

SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
SECTION 8. This Act shall not cause the expiration of any
tax credits legally claimed and carried forward in accordance
with law in effect prior to enactment of this Act.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 26 day of APR, 2017

David Ige
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017.

Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: APR 06 2017  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017.

Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate

Carol Taniguchi  
Clerk of the Senate