

March 31, 2017

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony on HB 1329, HD1, SD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Kāne and I serve as the chair of the board of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in improving government for every citizen for every service on every island. THG works to ensure that the benefits of the State of Hawai'i's business transformation and information technology modernization initiative ("the transformation") are fully realized. Our members, who are from all corners of the state, are united in the belief that there are opportunities for everyone to support better state government.

We recognize the state Legislature for its pivotal role in this transformation and we support transformation in its many forms – from improvements to the state's information technology infrastructure including more robust cybersecurity; to improvements in the state's business processes including improving access to services, making services more user-friendly, speeding up transactions when residents do business with the state, making state government more transparent, and providing up-to-date and accurate data for better decision-making.

Therefore, we are writing in **support** of HB 1329, HD1, SD1, relating to technology development. This bill appropriates funds for grants to participants in the 2017 and 2018 Hawaii annual code challenge so that the proof of concepts created during the challenges can be developed into prototypes and requires matching funds. We believe it is an important signal of the state's commitment to technology development.

We look forward to helping to promote streamlining, integrating and delivering government services that exceed the expectations of the public and the needs of Hawai'i's communities. And we seek opportunities to work together to achieve our state's transformation goals.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for the transformation.

**LATE**

**From:** [Jean Johnson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support Innovation and Civic Tech  
**Date:** Thursday, March 30, 2017 5:56:38 PM

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**From:** jm@mymojoyoga.com <Jean Johnson>

**Message:**

Testimony presented before the

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Friday, March 31, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**HB1329 HD1 SD1**  
**RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, and Members of Way and Means:

I offer my **Strong Support** for HB1329 HD1 SD1 that establishes a program to be administered by the High Tech Development Corporation to provide grants and mentorship to teams that develop proof of concepts resulting from Application Challenges that drive civic innovation in Hawaii.

These application challenges are a unique opportunity for the tech and startup community to collaborate with government departments to develop innovative solutions to some of the pressing social challenges facing Hawaii.

HB1329 HD1 SD1 is necessary because hackathons like the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge, Reboot the Commute and the AT&T Hackathon, even after 30-days only produce, at best, proof of concepts, but are not complete products. This appropriation bridges the known gap between proof of concept, prototype and commercial product. It not only offers a pathway for the development of civic tech but also enables the teams to evolve into startup businesses.

As part of this program a matching amount, not to exceed 50% of the appropriated amount, will be sought from corporate, philanthropic, and other non-government sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Jean Johnson

Haiku

Hawaii

