



Chamber of Commerce

LATE
HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and
Technology
Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 1001 RELATING TO MANUFACTURING

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 1001, which establishes and appropriates funds for the manufacturing development program, through which the high technology development corporation shall distribute grants to Hawaii manufacturers for various activities.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber recognizes that there is a wealth of potential in Hawaii's manufacturing industry. In order to create a vibrant, sustainable economic future and to provide opportunities for growth in this industry, it is crucial to offer support and resources to local companies. SB 1001 provides much-needed support for Hawaii's local manufacturing industry to start and grow their business and to keep it in Hawaii.

This program will allow the state to provide direct support to manufacturing companies in Hawaii to help grow the industry. On average, manufacturing company have higher compensation over other private sector non-farm jobs at about \$6,000 more per year.

The Chamber is committed to working together with others in the business and innovation community to grow Hawaii's manufacturing sector and the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.