



Startup Paradise is a private sector led movement of innovative startup businesses driving economic growth and prosperity in Hawaii. This movement is off to a great start: five nationally recognized, Hawaii-based accelerator programs, launching 40+ innovation and tech companies each year; a leading research institution in the University of Hawaii; world-class R&D firms and scientists; a continuum of financing in industries including scalable tech, creative media, and cleantech; co-working and incubation facilities; business development support programs and services; coding bootcamps teaching the fundamental workforce skills necessary to support the growing number of businesses in today's digital economy; and of course, talented entrepreneurs.

The launch of Hawaii's innovation economy was catalyzed by the State's investments through the HI Growth Initiative. In recognizing the importance of innovation to Hawaii, Governor Ige announced in his 2016 State of the State address his plans to continue investing \$30 million over the next six years through the HI Growth Initiative.

The Legislature's support has been critical to the growth of the innovation economy. The Startup Paradise contingent is pleased to see a number of bills this session that would support private sector efforts to keep innovative startup businesses growing and profitable here in Hawaii. We humbly request your vote to support these key measures. Mahalo!

**RELATING TO CAPITAL**

**Measure**

**HB2288 / SB2817 Relating to the HI Growth Initiative**  
Administration bill allocating \$5 million of the Corporation Income Tax per year for five years to the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation.

**HB2219 / SB2504 Relating to Innovation Business Interaction**  
Establishes a loan program in the High Technology Development Corporation to support high-technology small businesses.

**HB2668 / SB3110 Relating to the High Technology Development Corporation**  
Continues the Small Business Innovation Research Program within the High Technology Development Corporation.

**Position**

**SUPPORT**  
Continue investing and catalyzing private investment in critical infrastructure to support growth of the innovation economy, including events bringing entrepreneurs and investors together, accelerator programs and Hawaii-based venture capital (equity and convertible debt).

**SUPPORT**  
Creates access to capital for product development and proof of commercial concept, which is a key need for Hawaii's innovative startup businesses. The bill requires companies to attract third-party investment as a condition of qualifying for the second round of funding.

**SUPPORT**  
Provides grant capital to evaluate technology for commercial viability. Successful companies can then move up the financing continuum to access Hawaii-based commercialization funding and venture capital (equity and convertible debt) when ready.

**RELATING TO TRAINING AND WORKFORCE**

**Measure**

**HB2264 / SB3011 Relating to the High Technology Development Corporation**  
Appropriates funds to the High Technology Development Corporation for technology internship grants and programs to support the local talent pipeline for the technology industry.

**Position**

**SUPPORT**  
Necessary to train the next generation workforce to support the growing number of businesses in the innovation economy.

**RELATING TO EXECUTIVE BUDGET**

**Measure**

**HB1700 / SB2136 Relating to the State Budget (Capital Project No. TE0014)**  
Entrepreneur's Sandbox-Kakaako Collaboration Center, Oahu.

**HB1700 / SB2136 Relating to the State Budget (Program ID BED 145)**  
State budget bill allocating \$5 million in general funds to the HI Growth Initiative. This is the initial year of the Governor's six year proposal.

**Position**

**SUPPORT**  
Entrepreneurs and innovative startup businesses need collaborative workspace with access to state-of-the-art tools to facilitate innovation.

**SUPPORT**  
Continue investing and catalyzing private investment in critical infrastructure to support growth of the innovation economy, including events bringing entrepreneurs and investors together, accelerator programs and Hawaii-based venture capital (equity and convertible debt).

*The Startup Paradise movement is supported by:*

