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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.

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

- 1           SECTION 1. The EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology)  
2 project originated in Arkansas in 1995 and was the result of a  
3 close collaboration between industry, school districts,  
4 community organizations, and institutions of higher learning.  
5 The components for schools participating in the project EAST  
6 program include:
- 7           (1) Involving business partners to provide technology to  
8           rural areas through industry donations of hardware,  
9           software, and technical assistance;
- 10          (2) Partnering the business sector with school districts  
11          and universities to develop and implement high  
12          technology curriculum and methodology for kindergarten  
13          to sixteen-year-old students;
- 14          (3) Creating and implementing confidence-building  
15          curricula steeped in emerging technologies so that  
16          students can become life-long thinkers, learners, and



1           problem solvers, regardless of their socio-economic  
2           backgrounds or prior academic achievements; and  
3       (4)   Creating an effective program from which students can  
4           use the latest hardware and software applications to  
5           apply to real world applications through the execution  
6           and proficiency in computer aided design,  
7           visualization, computer generated animation, database  
8           design, webpage design, programming, office  
9           automation, global positioning systems, and  
10          geographical information systems.

11           During the 2000-2001 academic year, two of Maui's most  
12          technically-challenged high schools adopted EAST programs.  
13          Within one year, Lahainaluna high school went from being ranked  
14          as one of the least technologically proficient schools in the  
15          State, to being named the best EAST project nationwide. Since  
16          then, Maui has added EAST programs in several schools with  
17          outstanding results. Project EAST is currently in eight schools  
18          throughout the State - five on Maui and one on Molokai, Kauai  
19          (Aloha 'Ike Program), and the Big Island. Oahu schools have  
20          shown great interest in adopting and establishing EAST programs  
21          in their curriculum. Currently four Oahu pre-EAST schools have  
22          strong robotics programs, LEGO leagues, and botballs.



1           The cost of each EAST program is approximately \$100,000 per  
2 school (not counting direct costs of technology equipment and  
3 supplies, which are generally donated by business partners).  
4 The benefits of student achievement in technology expertise far  
5 outweigh the costs per individual school. The Women in  
6 Technology Project has endorsed and joined forces with project  
7 EAST schools because the program offers the kind of science,  
8 technology, engineering, and math learning environments that are  
9 needed for girls to remain interested in science- and math-  
10 related careers.

11           Women in Technology organizes a series of career days and  
12 special events every year on intermediate, high school, and  
13 college campuses to introduce project-based learning with  
14 participation by project EAST students and teachers. Science  
15 Day at the Capitol has been held for the past four years and  
16 features project EAST school presentations, educates  
17 legislators, businesses, and academia, and features department  
18 of education teachers and project EAST trainers.

19           Each year, the Women in Technology program organizes and  
20 pays for department of education professionals to complete  
21 project EAST training. Currently the department of education



1 does not pay the annual license fee for project EAST programs,  
2 which is approximately \$4,000 for each project EAST school.

3 In 2004, the legislature established the Hawaii 3Ts school  
4 technology laboratories fund under Act 218, Session Laws of  
5 Hawaii 2004. The 3Ts fund was modeled after the Hawaii 3R's  
6 school repair and maintenance fund established in 2001 for  
7 Hawaii public schools to meet the formidable backlog of repair  
8 and maintenance of its facilities. Act 218 supports potentially  
9 successful private-public economic initiatives by establishing  
10 the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund outside of  
11 the state treasury for the continuation and expansion of the  
12 project EAST initiatives or similar programs on all islands.

13 There are six hundred students enrolled in project EAST  
14 programs in the 2006-2007 school year. Over the four years of  
15 the project, EAST has served approximately two thousand four  
16 hundred students statewide by stimulating new interest through  
17 its attendance and participation at science and technology  
18 events, such as robotics, LEGO league, academic decathlon,  
19 regional and national competitions, and positive press.

20 Eighty per cent of project EAST students are pursuing  
21 higher educational high technology directions. Furthermore,  
22 within the past four years of the program's development,



1 approximately seventy-five per cent of the technical and non-  
2 technical jobs on Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island can be  
3 directly attributable to project EAST. This percentage will  
4 increase exponentially as the project expands on Oahu.

5 Project EAST and its influence continues to make an impact  
6 on education in Hawaii. The Ho'ike Technology Foundation  
7 challenge grant of \$50,000 is expected to generate more private  
8 sector interest and program participation for schools on Oahu.  
9 Programs are tentatively projected for Oahu high schools with  
10 feeder middle and elementary schools that are heavily involved  
11 in robotics training. Furthermore, two major national forums  
12 are taking place in Honolulu in 2007: the National Botball  
13 Symposium in April, 2007, and the National Conference on  
14 Education Robotics in July, 2007. The July conference is  
15 expected to attract thousands of interested individuals.

16 As an indication of its support for this exemplary program,  
17 the senate majority caucus endorsed project EAST in 2007, as one  
18 of the key links in successful school-community partnerships.

19 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds into the  
20 Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund for the purpose  
21 of expanding project EAST programs to Oahu and growing project  
22 EAST programs on the neighbor islands.



1           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           , or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for  
4 deposit into the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund  
5 established pursuant to section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised  
6 Statutes for the purpose of expanding project EAST programs to  
7 Oahu and growing project EAST programs on the neighbor islands;  
8 provided that no funds shall be expended unless matching funds  
9 are provided pursuant to section 302A-1314(p), Hawaii Revised  
10 Statutes.

11           The Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund shall be  
12 administered by Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.,  
13 in accordance with section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
14 and implemented in partnership with county economic development  
15 boards for the purposes of this Act.

16           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Project EAST; Technology Training; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds into the Hawaii 3Ts school technology laboratories fund for the economic development alliance of Hawaii to expand project EAST programs to public schools. (SD2)

