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Introduction to the Hawai'i County Economic Development Strategy

The Hawai'i County Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is intended to serve as the blueprint or roadmap for generating economic growth, diversification, job creation, and resiliency for Hawai'i County through defined goals, objectives, and actionable strategies, and it positions Hawai'i County to be eligible for federal funding. The Department of Research and Development (R&D) was one of several funders of and collaborators involved with the development of the CEDS.

Appropriately, the CEDS takes a holistic view on economic development, noting that a healthy environment and high quality communities are foundations for a strong local economy. From that perspective, many of the core functions of County government are critical components of CEDS implementation –civil defense, flood control, fire, police, waste management, water, land use, housing, roads, mass transit, parks, aging, etc. State agencies responsible for natural resources, health, education, and other sectors also play important roles. In that regard, R&D is helping the Planning Department align the CEDS and the General Plan, and R&D is collaborating with Planning on CDP implementation.

Implementation of the CEDS strategies is a collaborative endeavor among the many private, Federal, State, and County agents who operate in the economic and business development "ecosystems." Much of R&D's work involves collaboration with public and private partners to advance and fund economic development, and it strives to focus resources in ecosystem niches that aren't otherwise filled by its partners.

More specifically, R&D is using the CEDS to guide and refine the County's economic development strategies, with a specific focus on aligning the CEDS industry cluster strategies with R&D's business development, agriculture, tourism, and other program strategies as well as related economic development grants.