



From the Offices of State Representatives Hai Pham, Nathan Sosa, Kim Wallan

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Legislators Introduce Concept To Increase Semiconductor Talent Workforce Pipeline

Following passage of the Oregon CHIPS Act in 2023, Oregon Legislature now considers a bipartisan effort to increase the talent pool.

SALEM, Ore - Today, the House Committee on Higher Education held a hearing about [HB 4154](#), legislation that would provide new opportunities for those interested in working in Oregon's semiconductor industry. Reps. Hai Pham (D-South Hillsboro & SW Beaverton), Nathan Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro), and Kim Wallan (R-Medford) are leading the effort to pass the bill.

During the hearing, legislators learned that HB 4154 would create a statewide semiconductor consortium, composed of representatives of the semiconductor industry, education institutions, workforce organizations, and community-based partners to create inclusive career pathways that meet industry needs and grow Oregon's economy. In collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the consortium would develop a comprehensive strategy to guide new investments, diversify the workforce, and leverage private, state, and federal resources for the benefit of all Oregonians.

“HB 4154 is laying the groundwork for an ongoing partnership between the public and private sectors as we strive to create economic opportunities and good-paying jobs for people throughout Oregon,” **said Representative Nathan Sosa (D-Hillsboro).**

Legislators passed the Oregon CHIPS Act in 2023 to prepare Oregon for roughly \$40 billion in new semiconductor-related investment over the next several years. Semiconductor companies

receiving Oregon CHIPS funding are projected to need 6,300 new industry workers and 1,000 construction jobs to support the extraordinary growth.

“The legislature is following through on our commitment to Oregon’s world-class Semiconductor industry. This bill will help bolster the trained workforce required to fill thousands of new jobs created in response to our landmark 2023 investment. As we have all become aware, semiconductors and related technology are crucial to our economic and national security,” **said Representative Wallan (R-Medford).**

These investments benefit Oregonians across the state, but they can only be realized with a skilled and prepared workforce. Preparing our residents to take advantage of diverse meaningful opportunities in this high-wage, equitable industry will give Oregonians from all backgrounds and education levels an opportunity to share their talents with the world and build generational wealth.

“The semiconductor industry is truly a catalyst and economic multiplier for the state. Thanks to bold, collaborative action, Oregonians from every corner of the state - especially those in historically underserved communities - can take advantage of high-wage jobs in building generational wealth” **said Representative Hai Pham (D-South Hillsboro, SW Beaverton).**

The bill has bipartisan, bicameral support with 31 sponsors. It requests \$30 million in funding to support new investments, including:

- \$5M for STEM education and work-based learning
- \$5M for community college workforce training
- \$5M to support advanced degrees and research at public universities
- \$14.9M in one-time, direct allocations to community colleges and universities to kick-start strategic investments in infrastructure, faculty, and curriculum that will meet the needs of a rapidly advancing semiconductor industry.

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