
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. In 1983, the legislature created the high
2 technology development corporation as a means to facilitate
3 growth in the high technology industry. Since then, various
4 measures promoting the continuation of the high technology
5 industry have been enacted.

6 In 1990, the legislature established the Hawaii strategic
7 development corporation to encourage development and
8 diversification by stimulating the investment of private capital
9 in the State. Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, supported
10 the establishment of high technology companies in Hawaii by
11 expanding the application of the high technology business
12 investment tax credit. Further, Act 215, Session Laws of Hawaii
13 2004, complemented Act 221, by creating the state private
14 investment fund, which fills the current funding gap for later-
15 stage Hawaii companies by creating a diversified investment fund
16 secured by the State.

17 Positive growth in science and technology companies and
18 continued growth in the State's economy indicate that efforts to



1 stimulate the science and technology industry by providing
2 venture capital have been worthwhile. Hawaii has experienced an
3 influx of science and technology companies over the past five
4 years, and many of these companies are beginning to enter the
5 profitability stage of their growth. A rising demand for
6 increased incentives and further support from the State mandates
7 the establishment of concrete plans and a unified vision for the
8 future of Hawaii's science and technology sector.

9 In addition, the legislature finds that the University of
10 Hawaii will be competing for \$15,000,000 over five years under
11 the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to
12 Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). EPSCoR is a program
13 designed to fulfill the NSF's mandate to promote scientific
14 progress nationwide. An essential part of EPSCoR's goal of
15 enhancing the competitive position of a jurisdiction's research
16 and research-based education in science and engineering is a
17 well-designed statewide science and technology initiative or
18 plan. This science and technology initiative or plan
19 establishes statewide goals and objectives, and provides a
20 framework that guides the jurisdiction's utilization of
21 resources from EPSCoR and other stakeholders to achieve them.



1 The legislature finds that a task force focusing on
2 defining the direction of Hawaii's science and technology
3 industry is the necessary next step in the process of continued
4 growth. The purpose of this Act is to establish a science and
5 technology task force for the State. The primary responsibility
6 of the task force will be to develop a state master plan for
7 science and technology.

8 SECTION 2. (a) The science and technology task force is
9 established within the University of Hawaii, which shall provide
10 necessary administrative and staff support for the task force.

11 (b) The governor shall encourage members of the community
12 to nominate persons for the task force. All members shall serve
13 at the pleasure of the governor, who shall select the
14 chairperson from among the members. The task force shall
15 consist of eighteen members to be appointed by the governor and
16 shall include:

17 (1) Eight members to be nominated by the president of the
18 senate;

19 (2) Eight members to be nominated by the speaker of the
20 house of representatives;

21 (3) The president of the University of Hawaii or designee;
22 and



1 (4) The chairperson of the board of education or designee;
2 provided that the members nominated by the president of the
3 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall
4 include senior-level private sector leaders representing
5 Hawaii's traditional primary industries, such as visitor,
6 construction, defense, and property development; emerging
7 innovation sectors, such as biotechnology and healthcare,
8 dual-use, ocean and earth sciences, astronomy and optics,
9 agriculture, and film and creative media; professional services
10 sectors, such as finance, venture capital, accounting, and
11 marketing; and cultural and natural resources constituencies
12 representing the diversity of ethnic heritages and cultural
13 understandings within Hawaii.

14 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without pay, but
15 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel
16 expenses incurred in the performance of official duties if funds
17 are available.

18 (d) The task force shall meet at least quarterly or more
19 frequently at the discretion of the chairperson.

20 (e) The primary tasks of the task force shall include:



- 1 (1) Evaluating the effectiveness of past and current
2 technology related legislation, including Act 215,
3 Session Laws of Hawaii 2004;
- 4 (2) Developing a master plan for the direction of science
5 and technology in Hawaii, which shall include:
6 (A) A list of goals established for the science and
7 technology sector in the State;
8 (B) A plan to reach the established goals; and
9 (C) A timeline for implementation and completion;
- 10 (3) Assisting the legislature in maintaining an overall
11 framework to guide the development of science and
12 technology in the State by creating guidelines for
13 future science and technology legislation; and
- 14 (4) Submitting recommendations for science and technology
15 legislation to meet the goals established in the
16 science and technology master plan.
- 17 (f) The task force shall submit a preliminary master plan
18 and a report, including necessary proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature and the governor no later than twenty days prior to
20 the convening of the regular session of 2009, and shall issue an
21 updated report every two years thereafter that reassesses the
22 master plan.



1 SECTION 3. 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 2008-2009 for
4 the task force to carry out the purposes of this Act.

5 The sum shall be expended by the University of Hawaii for
6 the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

State Master Plan for Science and Technology; Task Force;
University of Hawaii

Description:

Creates a science and technology task force, attached to the University of Hawaii, to develop a state master plan for science and technology prior to the convening of the 2009 regular session and updated every two years thereafter. (SD1)

