

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there has been a
2 sharp decline in students pursuing careers in the fields of
3 engineering and technology. Educational programs that offer
4 maximum learning opportunities in these fields will ensure that
5 Hawaii's young professionals, Hawaii's next generation of
6 leaders and innovators, are effectively equipped with the
7 specialized knowledge to compete in the global market.

8 Each year, the International Robot Maze Contest is held in
9 Nagoya, Japan, where traditionally the competition has been made
10 up of and dominated by the top technical high school and
11 universities of Japan, Korea, and Guatemala. While in the past,
12 no high school from the United States has ever entered the
13 contest, this year, seventeen students from the Waiakea High
14 School Robotics Team took their robotic creations to Japan and
15 ended up winning several honors at the competition.

16 The Waiakea High School Robotics Team competed against
17 thirty-four international teams, including twenty-eight



1 universities. The Team won one category, the "Fully Autonomous
2 Micro Robot Maze Competition," and placed third and fourth in
3 two other categories. The Team also won a "Best Effort" award.
4 The robotics programs have introduced students to unique
5 educational experiences that will allow them to explore their
6 dreams, careers, and new frontiers in science and technology.

7 The legislature further finds that expanding the robotics
8 program to the university level will further the opportunities
9 in engineering and technology for Hawaii's young professionals
10 and encourage the technology industry to consider Hawaii as a
11 technology axis for the pacific region.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish a robotics task
13 force to research the possibility of creating an institute of
14 robotics within the college of engineering at the University of
15 Hawaii at Manoa.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the University
17 of Hawaii a robotics task force to research the possibility of
18 creating an institute of robotics within the college of
19 engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The dean of
20 the college of engineering, or the dean's designee, shall be
21 responsible for administering the work of the task force,



1 providing a facilitator, and submitting a report to the
2 legislature. The goals of the task force shall be to:

- 3 (1) Research the need to establish an institute of
4 robotics within the college of engineering at the
5 University of Hawaii at Manoa;
- 6 (2) Explore the different opportunities that an institute
7 of robotics could offer to students as well as
8 professors and the interest level of each;
- 9 (3) Consider certificates or degrees that could be earned
10 through an institute of robotics;
- 11 (4) Look into other universities that have similar
12 programs;
- 13 (5) Examine the area of interest that would be most
14 beneficial to Hawaii, including medical or health
15 applications, elderly assistance, military, space
16 exploration, software development, and oceanographic
17 applications; and
- 18 (6) Study the costs associated with creating an institute
19 of robotics.

20 (b) The task force shall establish a timeline by which
21 these goals and tasks shall be accomplished.



1 (c) The members of the robotics task force shall consist
2 of nine members as follows:

3 (1) The governor or the governor's designee;

4 (2) The speaker of the Hawaii state house of
5 representatives or the speaker's designee;

6 (3) The president of the Hawaii state senate or the
7 president's designee;

8 (4) The president of the University of Hawaii at Manoa or
9 the president's designee;

10 (5) The director of business, economic development, and
11 tourism or the director's designee;

12 (6) The dean of the college of engineering at the
13 University of Hawaii or the dean's designee;

14 (7) One representative from the Chamber of Commerce of
15 Hawaii;

16 (8) One representative from Enterprise Honolulu; and

17 (9) One representative from the Hawaii Science and
18 Technology Council.

19 (d) The robotics task force may submit its preliminary
20 findings to the legislature by January 1, 2009, and shall submit
21 its final findings and recommendations to the legislature by
22 August 1, 2009.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008, and
2 shall be repealed on January 1, 2010.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Institute of Robotics; Task Force

Description:

Establishes a task force to research the possibility of creating an institute of robotics within the University of Hawaii college of engineering.

