



HOUSE BILL 3360: RELATING TO SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: Establishes a task force to develop the Hawaii State Science and Technology Plan. Appropriates funds. (HB3360 HD1)

DATE: March 13, 2008
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

TO: Senate Committee Economic Development and Taxation
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education
The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

FROM: Lisa H. Gibson
President
Hawaii Science & Technology Council

RE: Testimony In Support of the Purpose and Intent of HB3360 HD1

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

While the Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HISciTech) supports the purpose and intent of HB 3360, HD1 to establish a task force and to develop a Hawaii science and technology master plan, HISciTech prefers and supports SB2860 SD1. The Senate version provides a greater opportunity for a more inclusive and broad based task force and places the task force under the University of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council is a 501(c)6 industry association with a 28-member board. The council serves Hawaii companies engaged in ocean sciences, agricultural biotechnology, astronomy, defense aerospace, biotech/life sciences, information & communication technology, energy, environmental technologies, and creative media. We would be happy to participate on this task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Lisa H. Gibson
President

Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION
AND COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Thursday, March 13, 2008
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HB 3360 HD1 RELATING TO A TECHNOLOGY MASTER PLAN.

Chairs Fukunaga and Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Espero and Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports the concept of HB 3360 HD1 which addresses current needs for a statewide science and technology plan. We believe this proposal focuses on the essential and long term need to strengthen and diversify our economy through collaborative, comprehensive planning and implementation for a vibrant and sustainable technology industry. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We note, however, that this appropriation was not included in the Executive's Supplemental Budget, and request that this appropriation not displace the priorities contained in that budget.

HTDC Board feels strongly that if a state tech master plan were to be completed successfully, the project should reside with HTDC, as the state's tech-based economic development agency, and work collaboratively with the community's stakeholders, including the University of Hawaii. A successful tech plan also requires adequate funding. Levels of funding suggested by State Science and Technology Institute range from \$300,000 to \$500,000. Further, successful outcomes of master plans usually relied on commitment from all the stakeholders, including the legislative and the executive branches to financially support the presented recommendations. We offer one suggestion and that is to keep the number of members on the task force to the original count of thirteen (13) members rather than increasing the size to sixteen (16) members as HD1 proposes. We can encourage participation from interested stakeholders throughout the planning process by implementing and utilizing working committees of the task force. Based on past experiences of managing large groups, there is tremendous difficulty obtaining quorum to proceed in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of HB 3360 HD1.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Economic Development and Taxation, and Education
Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

by
James R. Gaines
Vice President for Research, University of Hawaii System

HB 3360, HD 1 RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chairs Fukunaga and Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Espero and Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii supports the intent of this bill which would establish a task force to develop the Hawaii State Science and Technology Plan. As the largest science and technology organization in the State of Hawaii, the University has a vested interest in the task force and its resulting State Science and Technology Plan. Many of our Federal funding agencies are requiring evidence that their awards--especially in infrastructure and large, center-like awards--are not only meeting the needs of the nation, but also those of the state, as defined in an overarching science and technology plan. The University is in the unique position of bringing all stakeholders to the table to address this important work. As such, we ask the Legislature to consider making the University of Hawaii System the administrative home for this task force, provided that this does not adversely affect priorities in the Board of Regents' FY 2009 Supplemental Budget.

The development of a science and technology plan must involve participation by all affected stakeholders if it is to be successfully implemented. We would also ask that the proposed task force membership be broadened to include representation from the industry itself; specifically, Hawaii science and technology companies. This representation will be especially helpful in discussions regarding technology infrastructure investment and workforce development.

We gratefully acknowledge the Senate's incorporation of the foregoing recommendations in SB 2860, SD 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.