

HB2931: RELATING TO A TECHNOLOGY MASTER PLAN. Creates a high technology industry task force

DATE: February 5, 2008
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 325

TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns
The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Glen Wakai, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair
The Honorable Tom Brower, Vice Chair

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

RE: Testimony In Support of the Intent of HB2931

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

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HiSciTech) supports the development of a technology master plan and therefore supports the purpose and intent of this bill. HiSciTech further supports a task force that is as broad and inclusionary as possible. HiSciTech also requests that should such a task force be formed, that a preliminary report be submitted in 2009 prior to the 2010 session. Accordingly, we offer for the joint committee the following amendments for consideration:

- We suggest that the language be amended as follows:
 - The task force shall consist of eighteen members to appointed as follows:
 - Three members appointed by the president of the senate.
 - Three members appointed by the speaker of the house;
- In addition to the list of organizations in the bill, we suggest that the bill specifically include those economic development and industry groups on the front lines of private sector lead economic development initiatives which are already collaborating on a number of cross-cutting issues.
 - A representative from the Economic Development boards (Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and Enterprise Honolulu on Oahu);
 - The Hawaii Science & Technology Council;



- Other private sector affiliated industry groups including but not limited to the DoD Working Group, the Energy Policy Group, the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, the Aquaculture Association, etc.

- Other Key government agencies including:
 - The Director of the Department of Taxation;
 - The Director of the Workforce Development Board.
 - The state's chief technology officer. The National Science Foundation in their report *Cyberinfrastructure Vision for 21st Century Discovery* (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf0728/index.jsp>) communicates the importance of cyberinfrastructure as the foundation of science and engineering in the future. We propose the bill specifically designate participation for the state's chief technology officer. In addition, we suggest that the language be amended to specifically include representation for the science and technology industry from the neighbor islands and an expert in workforce development.

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council is a private tax-exempt 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.

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

Lisa H. Gibson
President