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To: House Committee on Finance
From: Paul T. Tsukiyama, Director
Date: February 21, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308
Re: Testimony on H.B. 3360, H.D. 1
Relating to Science and Technology

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 3360, H.D. 1.

The Office of Information Practices ("OIP") takes no position on the substance of this bill, which would establish a Hawaii State Science and Technology Task Force, but seeks clarification of a provision on page 4 line 21 to page 5 line 4 of the bill, which states that

The task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that the task force shall make a good faith effort to make its proceedings and work products accessible and available to the general public in a manner consistent with the intent of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Sunshine Law is only part I of chapter 92. Parts II through IV of chapter 92 relate to non-Sunshine Law issues, such as boards' general powers and quorum requirements, copy charges for public records, and publication of legal notices. If the intent of this provision is to exempt the Task Force from the Sunshine Law, OIP

recommends that the bill state that the Task Force "shall be exempt from part I of chapter 92."

OIP would, however, recommend that this Committee carefully consider whether it is good policy to exempt the Task Force from the Sunshine Law in light of the express policy and intent of the statute.

In a democracy, the people are vested with the ultimate decision-making power. Governmental agencies exist to aid the people in the formation and conduct of public policy. Opening up the governmental processes to public scrutiny and participation is the only viable and reasonable method of protecting the public's interest. Therefore, the legislature declares that it is the policy of this State that the formation and conduct of public policy - the discussions, deliberations, decisions, and actions of government agencies - shall be conducted as openly as possible.

Haw. Rev. Stat. §92-1 (1993).

The issues on the issue on which the Task Force is charged with making recommendations are important to and will affect the public at large. Although the bill calls for the Task Force to make a good faith effort to make its proceedings accessible to the public, the way in which it chooses to do so will be entirely within the Task Force's discretion and members of the public will have no recourse if they feel shut out of the proceedings. For instance, if it is exempt from the Sunshine Law, the Task Force will not be required to post notice of its meetings or allow the public to testify at its meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 21, 2008
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The High Technology Development Corporation supports the concept of HB 3360 HD1 which addresses current needs for a statewide science and technology plan. We believe this effort focuses on the essential and long term need to strengthen and diversify our economy through collaborative and 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.

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 committees of the task force. Based on past experiences of managing large groups with membership of this calibre, there is tremendous difficulty obtaining quorum for voting purposes even with the exemption to the Sunshine Law.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
by

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

Thursday, February 21, 2008, 2 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

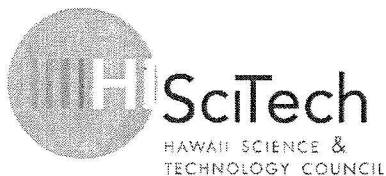
HB 3360, HD 1 Relating to Science and Technology

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

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. We ask this committee to consider making the University of Hawaii System the administrative home for this task force, provided that this does not adversely affect budget priorities in the Board of Regents' FY 2009 Supplemental Budget. The University is in the unique position of bringing all stakeholders to the table to address this important work.

The development of a science and technology plan must have participation by all affected stakeholders if it is to be successfully implemented. We ask that this committee consider broadening the proposed task force membership 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HOUSE BILL 3360: RELATING TO SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: Establishes a task force to develop the Hawaii State Science and Technology Plan.

DATE: February 21, 2008
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

TO: House Committee Finance
The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

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

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

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

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council supports the purpose and intent of HB3360 to create a task force to develop a Hawaii science and technology master plan, but ask that the task force be inclusive of a broad spectrum of the tech community, including The Hawaii Science & Technology Council which represents all nine tech sectors.

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.

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

Lisa H. Gibson
President