

HB1617 HD1

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
MARK K. ANDERSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
and the
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
Tuesday, March 24, 2009
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
HB 1617 HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

Chair Tokuda, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB 1617 HD1 which would establish the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH). Support for the activities of the office is included as a part of the Administration's request for \$500,000 to contribute to the required State matching funds for a new EPSCoR grant, included in the University of Hawaii System budget, which would bring in \$4,000,000 per year for five years.

The University of Hawaii at Hilo reports remarkable growth in its research effort in the first seven years of this decade: increases of 462.5% in funding and 341% in the number of awards.

The proposed office would serve a vital coordinating function that would accelerate further growth in the ability of UHH to attract research funding, carry out quality research, and provide research training for both undergraduate and graduate students.

In particular, there has been an emphasis at UHH in recent years on majors related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This has been supported in large part by grants from the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). As DBEDT Director, I sit on the EPSCoR Statewide Steering Committee and DBEDT administers State matching funds for the NSF grant.

This emphasis on STEM is an important alignment with the State's economic development goal related to developing an innovation-based economy that depends on strengthening our ability to educate a STEM workforce and providing all students with STEM skills to succeed in a more complex society. We believe that the proposed Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development will greatly enhance UHH's ability to help the State meet this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
March 24, 2009 at 1:15pm

by

James R. Gaines, Vice President for Research, and
Linda K. Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1617 HD 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chairs Tokuda and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Baker, and members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Economic Development and Technology: Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1617, House Draft 1. This bill establishes in statute an office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and authorizes positions for a Vice Chancellor, staff, and faculty.

We thank the legislature for this intent to support the growth of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The University of Hawai'i recognizes that UH Hilo's growing research activity will require more coordination and leadership, and supports this proposal in principle at some future date after appropriate review. We are concerned, however, about establishing University positions or offices in statute.

Under the Hawai'i State constitution, the UH Board of Regents appoints the President of the University, and by statute, it appoints exempt personnel. Creating additional executive personnel at UH requires appropriate review by the Board of Regents within the context of a review of overall budget priorities as well as each campus' mission and role within the UH system. We note that an amendment to statute is not required to establish this office or position, and respectfully request that the Board of Regents' responsibility for such matters be honored.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH)
*Investment in a UHH focal point for Applied Research & Economic Development:
A Vision for Strengthening Educational Excellence and the State S&T Enterprise*

Overview

In UHH's advancement towards becoming a comprehensive university, it already secures one of the highest rates of extramural funding awards relative to the number of faculty at the institution. UHH ranks third nationally among over 250 Carnegie Masters I & II public institutions in Federal grants and contracts per employee. When compared with public research I universities, UHH ranks above three-fourths of this group on this metric and over better-noted schools such as those at Berkeley and Austin, Texas. UHH funding rose from \$3.2 million in 2000 to \$18.0 million in 2007, an increase of 462.5%. From 2000 to 2007, the overall numbers of awards at UHH, rose by 341% -from only 22 in 2000 to 97 in 2007. A new culture of "research empowerment" is emerging amongst UHH faculty. Faculty engaged in cutting-edge research efforts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and other fields can and do enhance the undergraduate learning experience when they bring their work into the classroom. Similarly, faculty research projects serve the foundation for rich training opportunities for graduate students about to enter the workforce. STEM majors represent 20% of the UHH graduating students, approximately twice the national average. The emphasis of STEM education at UHH is consistent with state needs and goals. In addition, the pursuit of research endeavors in which the knowledge generated can benefit the State of Hawaii, its industries and its economy represents a positive return on the investments made in those activities.

In order for the UH System to be better positioned to meet the States science and technology (S&T) related goals, UHH requires essential support to excel in applied and basic STEM research fields that provide the hands-on experiences essential for our graduates to be competitive in the global discovery and innovation enterprise. UHH will make an active and measurable contribution to the State's economy and provide a solid return on its investment through research and training, both through the production of new knowledge and methodologies that help Hawaii's business and citizens, and through the enhanced educational experience of its students. Because participation in faculty-guided research experiences are essential to degree attainment in the STEM fields, UHH STEM initiatives will also help address critical workforce shortages and prepare undergraduate, graduate and professional students to serve in a variety of STEM fields.

The establishment of minimal but desperately needed focal point for provision, strategic leveraging and coordination of administrative support services will be needed to facilitate the growth and expansion of research efforts at UHH as well as the successful application and award of grant funds and other extramural funds to support those research efforts, research experiences for students, and stimulation of S&T business in Hawai'i.

Focal Point to Integrate Applied Research, Education & Training with Economic Development

UHH's mission has evolved and expanded in recent years from a principally undergraduate teaching institution to one with a significant STEM research focus as an integral component of both undergraduate and a growing graduate student experience. UHH faculty and students are eager and ideally suited to expand UH System's research enterprise with a priority on weaving Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander culture and traditional knowledge into STEM research that is aimed at building a globally competitive workforce and diversifying the economic foundation of the State of Hawai'i. UHH is at a point of tremendous growth and expansion, especially in S&T areas. UHH is building the infrastructure, faculty and staff to become a leader in science research in the state and region. UHH has a broad portfolio of externally and state supported projects that are significant in their respective efforts to enhance institutional research capabilities and link research with education.

Enhanced educational and training experience for UH Hilo students in STEM fields is absolutely essential. In order for UHH to achieve its full potential to contribute to the development of a new generation of STEM graduates that will fuel the expansion of Hawaii's S&T economy, it is essential that a permanent, formal administrative and grants support focal point be created for all UHH STEM research experiences for both undergraduate and graduate student projects and programs. The UHH Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED) will serve as the overarching institutional focal point for coordination of all undergraduate and graduate STEM mentorship programs and integration with ongoing and future research

projects, with an aim to build synergy between the many capacity-building and mentorship programs and support available to STEM majors at UHH, thereby increasing institutional effectiveness in broadening participation. Our goal is to create and demonstrate proof of concept for a new paradigm model aimed at transformationally increasing participation of underrepresented cultural, socio-economic and ethnic groups from the Pacific Islands in undergraduate and graduate STEM education, attainment of BS, MS and PhD STEM degrees, and broadening participation of these groups in university teaching and research positions.

Establishment of a fully functional VC-RED Office will significantly increase cost-effective utilization of grant indirect/overhead funds, serve as a focal point for all STEM education/training experiences and mentoring that are integrated with UHH research projects, will support the growing research programs across departments at UHH, be responsible for all budgeting/fiscal aspects of research grants, and allow both faculty and students to focus their efforts more directly on their research, education and training. VC-RED will also serve as a UHH focal point for leading UHH efforts in S&T economic development, encourage interdisciplinary activities and foster programs that promote S&T economic progress of the state. It will also provide the long-term strategic vision and oversight required for the expanding UHH research programs, and link these more directly to stimulation of STEM related economic development in Hawai'i.

Through a newly created VC-RED office, UHH will be much better positioned to support the development and implementation of high impact research and undergraduate degree program initiatives that address State priorities, as well as providing essential research experiences for UHH STEM students to become a highly qualified and globally competitive S&T workforce. Initiatives that would be pursued would include the following:

- Germination of “Alternative Energy and Food Security for Hawai'i through Sustainable Agriculture“ Research and Workforce Development Initiative
- Germination of “Robotics/Artificial Intelligence for the Future” Research & Workforce Development Initiative
- Germination of “Rural Health Outreach & Education” Initiative to address rural Hawai'i health disparity issues
- Establishment of a UH Hilo Applied Engineering Undergraduate Degree Program

UHH and UHM should not be viewed as "competing" or duplicating research programs. This is not a zero-sum game, because these institutions are not competing with each other. Rather, they are part of the same UH System. UHM primarily concentrates on basic research and graduate research experiences, while UHH focuses more on filling the niche for applied research that seeks to strongly link to both the undergraduate STEM education experience and S&T economic stimulation for Hawaii. So each institution's research enterprise will complement what the other is doing and strengthens the broader UH System as it addresses the critical needs of our State.

Addressing Priority Goals for Hawai'i

Establishment of a UHH VC-RED Office will directly support the following 2050 Hawai'i Sustainability recommendations for a “Sustainable Hawai'i”:

- Strengthen Public Education
- Reduce reliance of fossil fuels
- Promote food security for the State
- Develop more resilient and diversified economy, and
- Strengthen local S&T workforce

The VC-RED Office is envisioned to be flexibly organized to address three core areas: Sponsored Programs, Research Development/Training, and Economic Development/Innovation Initiatives. The local business community has a strong desire for an enhanced UHH role in stimulating S&T related economic development in Hawai'i. Therefore, a Big Island S&T Economic Stimulation Advisory Committee will also be established to provide the VC-RED direct and pro-active 2-way flow of information, suggestions and ideas with the local community and significant engagement of representatives from the diverse business enterprise on the Big Island. Establishment of a UHH VC-RED Office will be a significant step towards fulfilling a vision for both enhancing existing programs within UHH, and developing and implementing new programs and partnerships that can form the basis of locally, regionally and globally relevant, and nationally and internationally respected, UHH research programs having a diversity of S&T foci with strong linkages to education, innovation and local S&T-based economic development.

**Business Plan for establishment of UH Hilo
Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development**

Mission of the Office

An Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED) at UH Hilo would serve as the overarching institutional focal point for the campus in three strategic areas: 1) sponsored programs, 2) research development/training, and 3) economic development/innovation initiatives.

A VC-RED Office would:

- Bring science and technology (S&T) economic and workforce development to higher level
- Establish, formalize, and focus applied research initiatives at UH Hilo
- Serve as a liaison between community businesses and UH Hilo
- Facilitate a two-way exchange between the business community and UH Hilo
- Provide a focal point for public/private research and business partnerships
- Identify research needs, hurdles, and strategically plan for future research on the Big Island
- Formalize a management strategy to equitably distribute RTRF (returned overhead) monies
- Develop and coordinate effective undergraduate and graduate STEM mentorship programs
- Enhance university/community involvement with ongoing and future research projects
- Broaden faculty participation to increase intramural collaboration with all UH campuses
- Coordinate student-employee STEM experiences
- Stimulate the development of locally-based S&T-related enterprises
- Help develop a trained local STEM workforce to fulfill jobs of our evolving local economy
- Support the development of new S&T businesses
- Encourage S&T businesses to relocate to Hawaii
- Seek to expand STEM employment opportunities for Hawaii expatriates desiring to return and for UH Hilo STEM majors wanting to establish a career at home

Engagement with the Local Business Community

The local business community has publicly expressed a strong desire for an enhanced UH Hilo role in stimulating S&T-related economic development. Should a VC-RED Office be formally funded with General Funds, a Big Island S&T Economic Stimulation Advisory Committee would be established to provide the VC-RED with a direct and pro-active two-way flow of information with the local business community.

Base-Level Funding Investment is Critical

An innovative blended approach of funding support would serve as the basis for the staffing and operations of a VC-RED Office. A VC-RED Office would employ a strategy of leveraging base level state appropriated funding with non-state appropriated sources (external grants, contracts, etc.).

- *A base level annual investment of state appropriated funding of \$200,000 per year would be essential to establish and maintain the VC-RED Office.*
- *UH Hilo would utilize non-state appropriated “soft money” funds from grants, partnerships with private enterprise and similar sources to supplement state appropriated base-funding.*
- *Supplies, equipment and space for this core staff would also be supported through soft money funds and existing facility space.*
- *FY2010 state appropriated base-level funding investment is imperative since the National Science Board’s two years of support for the Interim VC-RED terminates in December 2009.*

Managing Research “Income”: An Efficient and Strategic Allocation of Overhead Funds

To ensure continued success and vibrancy, every business must re-invest much of the income earned back into the company. For universities, this “income” comes in the form of RTRF monies, or the return of overhead funds from extramural research grants and contracts. Having the VC-RED manage and re-invest UH Hilo RTRF will strategically strengthen UH Hilo’s ability to secure additional non-State funding for the campus. Establishment of a fully functional VC-RED Office will significantly increase cost-effective utilization of grant indirect/overhead funds and support the growing research programs across departments at UH Hilo. During the 5-year period from

FY2004-2008, UH Hilo received an annual average of ~\$16.4 million in non-state appropriated “soft money” awards (ranging from ~\$14.6 million to ~\$18.6 million annually). Many of these awards include partial salary funding for various research administration staff positions specific to that award.

Strategic Leveraging and Coordination of Human Capital Resources

The leveraged VC-RED organizational structure would employ a matrix management approach to facilitate integration of currently separate silos of staff from different programs in a manner to significantly increase efficiency and effectiveness. The VC-RED would serve as a focal point for leveraging personnel that would normally be exclusively assigned to large, capacity-building grants with an innovative team approach. Project administrative personnel will be split-funded with the majority of funding coming from project funds and a small portion from RTRF funds, and would work collaboratively to support the mission of the VC-RED. Using a portion of project staff time eliminates the need to add headcount to the VC-RED and RCUH staff. UH Hilo currently has at least nine project personnel suitable for this team approach.

RCUH Hilo will continue serving as the Sponsored Projects Office for the VC-RED’s by handling all of the procurement and fiscal components of grants and contracts management. The RCUH Executive Director and UH Hilo Interim Vice Chancellor for Research have agreed to provide joint guidance for and evaluation of the RCUH Hilo Director. Thus, under the new matrix management model, the VC-RED will provide direct guidance to RCUH Hilo. RCUH Hilo staff include five experienced and highly-qualified personnel: Administrative Services Assistant – Travel, Administrative Services Assistant – Procurement, Project Development Specialist, Admin/Fiscal Services Administrator, and Director. These five positions would continue to be fully funded by RCUH.

Other programs that were originally designed to work independently are also excellently positioned to work collaboratively to obtain enhanced results benefiting the UH Hilo and local business community. For example: Hawaii’s Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC) and Hawaii Innovation Center at Hilo (HICH) run by HTDC will work together to help drive the economic development focus of the office. SBDC currently provides expert advice and workshops to prospective entrepreneurs, a necessary resource to stimulate business development. HICH and the resources of the HTDC may be used as a venue to launch new businesses resulting from UH Hilo’s focus on applied research and the VC-RED’s focus for S&T transfer.

Ideally, a UH Hilo VC-RED Office would be authorized to include the position of UH Hilo Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, and such key administrative and technical staff and faculty positions as its budget allows and which are needed to fulfill its mission. A core VC-RED staff would consist of positions funded by a combination of General Funds and soft money. Such a core staff might be structured and funded as follows:

Position	General Funds	Soft Money (non-state funds)	Total
S&T Economic Development Specialist	\$ 20,000	+ \$ 50,000 =	\$70,000
S&T Grants/Contract Specialist	\$ 20,000	+ \$ 35,000 =	\$55,000
STEM Research Experiences Coordinator	\$ 20,000	+ \$ 40,000 =	\$60,000
Executive Secretary	\$ 40,000	+ \$ 0 =	\$40,000
VC for Research & Economic Development	\$100,000	+ \$ 75,000 =	\$175,000
Total	\$200,000	+ \$200,000 =	\$400,000

The VC-RED would serve as the focal point to strategically unite these entities in collaborative efforts. Further, many federal agencies are requiring projects to collaborate within institutions, with other institutions, and with community partners. Establishment of the VC-RED would provide UH Hilo with a way to efficiently manage these efforts on a full-time basis.



Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce

106 Kamehameha Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 935-7178
Fax: (808) 961-4435
E-mail: admin@hicc.biz
www.hicc.biz

2008-09 Board

President
Barbara A. Hastings

President-Elect
Mary Begier

Vice President
Mike Gleason

Treasurer
Jon Miyata

Past President
Robert Williams

Directors

Howard Ainsley
Vaughn Cook
Charles Ensey
Judith Fox-Goldstein
Gary Fujihara
Stan Fortuna, Jr.
Jan Higashi
Randy Kurohara
Warren Lee
Barry Mizuno
Irene Nagao
Robert Charles Porter
Marcia Sakai
Alice Sledge
Mele Spencer
Art Taniguchi
Richard Toledo
Steve Ueda
Jere Usui
Carol Van Camp

Senator Jill M. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development & Technology

From: Barbara A. Hastings
President, HICC

March 23, 2009

Re: HB 1617, Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce joins other business and community groups of East Hawaii to ask that you support establishing a position of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at UH-Hilo. We would strongly urge that the effective date be more immediate than the one proposed.

HICC represents more than 350 businesses and 700 members. Our organization is long on record supporting higher education and have taken an active role in the two state institutions in are immediate area. In addition to other support, each year provide scholarships to students at both UH-Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

We believe that the new office of research and economic development will provide another important focus at UH Hilo—one that will also have positive impact on our economic climate of East Hawai'i and beyond.

This office will be the go-to people for technology transfer, science and technology-trained students, student STEM experiences, and responsible to manage the university's vast and untapped intellectual resources for community partnerships.

The Vice Chancellor for Research office is desperately needed. Please allow us to build on Dr. Rose Tseng's work and help to make research and economic development another focus for our small community. Dr. Tseng encouraged Dr. Michael Crosby to become involved in our community and he did, meeting with community leaders and businesses to find out who we were and how the university could be of help to them.

Our business community is committed to making this work.



Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce

106 Kamehameha Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 935-7178
Fax: (808) 961-4435
E-mail: admin@hicc.biz
www.hicc.biz

We see this position as one that will collaborate or partner with our business community and see how we can leverage our scarce resources.

We believe that this small investment by the state will provide UH Hilo with the base support necessary to make permanent what Dr. Crosby started.

The passing of HB 1617 insures we will be able to continue further development of the partnership that has already begun. Research and economic development activities are growing and will continue to grow at UH Hilo. Establishment of the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development will provide a formal structure and focal point to strategically coordinate and guide current and future activities that more strongly unite UH Hilo with the community, local and state governments, federal agencies, and the other UH campuses.

We respectfully request and urge the committee to pass HB 1617.

In summary, we believe that HB 1617 (establishing the UH Hilo Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development) will:

- Serve as a liaison between community businesses and UH Hilo
- Stimulate the development of science and technology-related enterprises
- Help to develop a trained workforce to fulfill the jobs of our evolving economy
- Serve as a focal point for public/private partnerships
- Establish, formalize, and focus applied research initiatives at UH Hilo
- Provide the state with another focal point of economic stimulus
- Result in a tremendous *Return on Investment* within the first year and beyond

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Written Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**
Tuesday, March 24, 2009
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
HB 1617 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

Chairs Tokuda and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Baker and Members of the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and Economic Development and Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports HB 1617 HD1, which establishes the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

HTDC has had discussions with Dr. Michael Crosby, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, on the potential and strong need to have this new office, UH Hilo Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, work very closely with HTDC for a much more integrated approach that links more applied oriented research, STEM student intern experiences, and stimulation of new science and technology oriented businesses in Hawaii.

As we reported to this committee in past hearings, today, many federal agencies are requiring research and development projects to collaborate within university institutions, with other institutions, and with community partners. Establishment of a Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development provides the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a way to efficiently and effectively manage these efforts on a full-time basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

From: Mary_Correa/HAWAIIIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for HB1617, March 24, 2009@1:15 p.m.
Date: Monday, March 23, 2009 5:00:47 PM

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda and Senator Carol Fukunaga,

We kindly ask for your help:

- Call a Joint Committee Hearing with the House of Representatives to sustain and pass **HB 1617**.
- University of Hawaii Hilo needs to establish the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED).

What do we need?

- PASS HB1617. Give UH Hilo a Vice Chancellor of Research in Economic Development.

What is happening in the nation?

- There is a national need for effective, innovative projects.
- Ten BILLION dollars of Federal RECOVERY Act monies were designated to National Institutes of Health (NIH) for special grant opportunities.
- Grant Reviews are “fiercely competitive.”

What are we doing about it?

- We are responding to the request for proposals.
- There is no question that Big Island meet the need, many racial, ethnic, economic disparities. We win the needs assessment criteria because Big Island is very needy, rural, low socio-economic, educational, health, welfare disparity ratings.

What is the problem?

- University of Hawaii Hilo does not have a VICE CHANCELLOR OF RESEARCH in Economic Development.
- How can we become a first class research university with low research infrastructure?

What do we need?

- PASS HB1617. Give UH Hilo a Vice Chancellor of Research in Economic Development.
- Give UH Hilo a Vice Chancellor of Research in Economic Development.

Thank you very much for your assistance,

Mary A. Correa
Hawaii District
Complex Area Superintendent
Ka'u-Kea'au-Paho Complexes
Phone: (808) 974-6602
Fax: (808) 974-6604



March 23, 2009

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Chair, Economic Development & Technology
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, HI 96813
and
Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Fukunaga, Senator Tokuda and members of the Economic Development & Technology and Higher Education Committees,

We strongly support HB 1617, H.D. 1 for the establishment of the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and request your assistance in calling a joint committee meeting to discuss this bill.

The National Institute of Health will receive over a billion dollars from the federal economic stimulus package. In order for the University of Hawaii at Hilo to qualify for grant opportunities for these funds an infrastructure must be in place to receive the grant monies. HB 1617 HD1 will allow this infrastructure to be developed through the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development.

We support a joint committee meeting for HB 1617 to allow the University of Hawaii at Hilo to build the infrastructure necessary to coordinate resources for grant research. We encourage the Senate Committees of Economic Development & Technology and Higher Education to recommend and support HB 1617. In these times of economic restraints, this bill is a good investment for returns on federally funded research grants and programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our view on this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 987-9583 (cellular).

Sincerely,

Barry K. Taniguchi
President

March 23, 2009

Representative Jill Tokuda
Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Support of HB1617 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Sakamoto, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:


We, the East Hawaii Community Development Corporation (EHCDC), fully support HB1617 HD1 for the establishment of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH Hilo) and urge the Committee to support it with an effective date of *July 1, 2009* instead of July 1, 2020.

The EHCDC was established as a 501(c)(3) organization to develop, implement, and conduct various activities including: economic development, research, training, and education for East Hawaii and the County of Hawaii in the State of Hawaii.

Our rural Big Island community, local businesses, and citizens face many challenges, one of which is lack of jobs, especially well-paying ones. Thus, many of our brightest local youths and young adults with the most potential are faced with the need to leave our island for challenging, gainful employment.

Based on our experience, Dr. Michael Crosby is someone who is sincerely concerned about the well-being of our community and especially the future of our youth. He has demonstrated his willingness to interface with the community and create a two-way relationship between the UH Hilo and our local community in order to bring applied research and economic development opportunities for the benefit of all. With the current economic crisis, this leadership role is something of paramount urgency and we humbly ask the Higher Education Committee to support HB 1617 HD1 with an effective date of *July 1, 2009*.

Respectfully Submitted,
EAST HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ernest Matsumura, President 
Allan Takase, MD, Vice President
Nimr Tamimi, P.E., Secretary
Sharyl Kasarskis, Treasurer
Bridget Awong, Director
Michael Gleason, Director
Richard Ha, Director

From: [Chris Chiesa](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 1617 / Establishment of the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at UH-Hilo
Date: Monday, March 23, 2009 3:54:50 PM

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2009
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senators Tokuda and Fukunaga,

I would like to express my support for the establishment of the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the UH-Hilo Campus which has been proposed in HB1617. This new office will, among other things, facilitate collaboration between faculty and researchers at UH-Hilo and those at other UH units and organizations; collaboration which has a high potential for receiving federal funding. With out such an office, UH-Hilo will not be eligible to receive funding from several key federal agencies.

The outcomes envisioned from establishment of this office will certainly benefit the state - both in terms of new, innovative research to solve challenging problems here and around the globe, and funding to sustain and grow the research community within the State.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Regards,
Chris

=====
Chris Chiesa
Chief Information Officer
Pacific Disaster Center
1305 N. Holopono Street, Suite 2
Kihei, HI USA 96753
Voice: +1.808.891.0525 ext. 953
Mobile: +1.808.283.8679
Fax: +1.808.891.0526
cchiesa@pdc.org