

JAN 21 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that innovation is an
2 essential driver of economic growth and future competitiveness.
3 A thriving innovation economy promotes economic growth, fosters
4 new technologies, creates jobs, and keeps the United States
5 leading the global marketplace. States across the nation and
6 the Obama administration have committed to renewing the
7 country's focus on innovation as a means of fostering economic
8 growth and creating high-wage jobs throughout the nation.

9 In Hawaii, the president of the University of Hawaii system
10 recently unveiled recommendations of a draft report authored by
11 the Advisory Council on Hawaii Innovation and Technology
12 Advancement on how the University of Hawaii can build private
13 sector high-wage jobs and partnerships. Report recommendations
14 included identifying research as an industry in Hawaii;
15 establishing the Hawaii Innovation Technology Exchange Institute
16 (HiTEX); encouraging collaboration by integrating
17 entrepreneurship into the university's curriculum; and
18 identifying security and sustainability: energy and



1 agriculture, data analytics, and Asian-Pacific health as key
2 areas for capitalizing on commercialization opportunities for
3 Hawaii.

4 In addition, in 2010, the senate committee on economic
5 development and technology and the house committee on economic
6 revitalization, business, and military affairs convened an
7 informal small business discussion group to address the most
8 critical issues facing the small business sectors within
9 Hawaii's economy. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce
10 of Hawaii, construction and trades industries, community
11 nonprofits, the agricultural sector, food and restaurant
12 industries, retailing, the science and technology sector, the
13 commercial transportation industry, and interested stakeholders
14 developed a package of bills that address the most pressing
15 problems facing Hawaii's small business community.

16 The purpose of this Act is to support the findings of the
17 small business working group and the recommendations proposed by
18 the Advisory Council on Hawaii Innovation and Technology
19 Advancement regarding regulatory requirements faced by
20 businesses engaged in biotechnology research, by establishing a
21 task force to:



- 1 (1) Identify barriers that Hawaii businesses and
- 2 university professors face in developing
- 3 entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology; and
- 4 (2) Recommend specific actions to address these barriers.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a biotechnology task
6 force within the University of Hawaii for administrative
7 purposes only. The task force shall assess barriers faced by
8 businesses engaged in biotechnology research or other
9 activities, and develop recommendations and any legislation
10 required to expedite permit processing for the specialized needs
11 of biotechnology businesses, including importation of organisms
12 or other items that are typically classified as invasive species
13 or hazardous in some manner.

14 (b) The task force shall consist of representatives from
15 the:

- 16 (1) University of Hawaii system, including the college of
17 tropical agriculture and human resources, John A.
18 Burns school of medicine, and department of
19 oceanography;
- 20 (2) Department of agriculture;
- 21 (3) Department of land and natural resources;
- 22 (4) Department of health;



- 1 (5) Hawaii Science and Technology Council; and
- 2 (6) Biotechnology industry businesses, including
- 3 agricultural biotechnology, life
- 4 sciences/biotechnology, and bioenergy.


5 The representative from the University of Hawaii college of
 6 tropical agriculture and human resources shall serve as chair of
 7 the task force.

8 (c) The task force shall report its findings and
 9 recommendations to the legislature, including recommendations
 10 for legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
 11 convening of the regular session of 2012.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: Carl Furumasa

Jim
Mark
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Roseley de Baka
Malama John


Suzanne Chun Oakland
James H. Lee

Report Title:

Biotechnology; Task Force

Description:

Establishes a task force to identify barriers that Hawaii businesses and university professors face in developing entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology, and to recommend specific actions to address these barriers; requires report to the 2012 legislature.

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