

SB 776

SD 1

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2011
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 776, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Senate Bill 776, Senate Draft 1 establishes a task force to identify barriers to developing biotechnology businesses and recommend specific actions to address these barriers. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the creation of the Task Force provided that the charge given to the Task Force is appropriately changed to address invasive and harmful species issues.

The Task Force should not be expediting permit processing of biotechnology businesses for import of organisms or other items classified as invasive species or hazardous in some manner. The existing permit process protects Hawaii's environment and economy from harmful organisms by preventing the mistakes of past introductions by entrepreneurial businesses that resulted in damage to the State. The Task Force should be instructed to identify a process where organisms classified as invasive species or hazardous in some manner are identified early in the process and avoided.

The Department suggests the following change to SECTION 2(a) of the bill:

SECTION 2. (a) There is established a biotechnology task force within the University of Hawaii for administrative purposes only. The task force shall assess barriers faced by businesses engaged in biotechnology research or other activities, and develop recommendations and any legislation required to expedite permit processing for the specialized needs of biotechnology businesses, including importation of organisms or other items [~~that are typically classified as invasive species or hazardous in some manner~~]. The task force shall recommend a process to identify organisms as invasive or hazardous early in the process so that their introduction to the State can be avoided.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
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LAND
STATE PARKS



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 1, 2011 at 9:20 a.m.

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Sylvia Yuen

Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 776 SD1 Relating to Science and Technology

SB 776 SD1, Relating to Science and Technology, builds on the work of the small business working group and University of Hawai'i President Greenwood's Advisory Council on Hawai'i Innovation and Technology Advancement. It establishes a Biotechnology Task Force to:

- Identify barriers that Hawai'i businesses and university professors face in developing entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology, and
- Recommend specific actions to address these issues.

The representative of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources shall serve as the Chair of the Biotechnology Task Force, and the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the 2012 Hawai'i State Legislature.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports SB 776 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this bill.