



To the Senators:

I would like to submit my testimony here in support of Bill S.B. NO. 776.

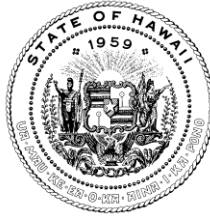
I am a UH student working in research and I can tell you personally that I am very excited to see Hawaii prosper in the bioresearch field, especially in the private sector. This gives me great hope, since I hope to build a career in doing research in the future and I would like to continue my work here in my home state.

As such I urge you to pass this legislative bill to allow for more work to be done so that Hawaii may gain a stronger foothold in the scientific community.

Sincerely,

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
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LAND
STATE PARKS

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

LATE

**Before the Senate Committees on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
and
EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2011
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

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

Senate Bill 776 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.