

SB2397

Creates an agricultural technology park under the high technology development corporation. Designates certain properties to be included in the park.

Statement of
LEN HIGASHI
Acting Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING
AND AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
In consideration of

SB 2397 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Dela Cruz and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom and Kouchi, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing and Agriculture.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports the intent of SB 2397** relating to Economic Development. HTDC supports the intent to nurture and grow agricultural innovation and supporting startups and businesses in this arena. HTDC's Innovate Hawaii program offers business support to manufacturers that would have synergies with the tech park. HTDC has limited resources and would be best suited in a support role in partnerships with the agriculture industry and other relevant agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014
2:45 P.M.
Room 229
SENATE BILL NO. 2397
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairpersons Nishihara and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2397. This bill requires the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to develop an agricultural technology park on three properties in central Oahu. In developing the agricultural technology park, HTDC will consult with the Housing Finance and Development Corporation, departments of Agriculture and Education, Agribusiness Development Corporation, and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The purpose of the Park is to bridge the agricultural and technology gap, secure investment for agricultural state facilities, provide jobs for rural communities, and be used to support agricultural tourism. The Department of Agriculture supports the measure and defers to the High Technology Development Corporation and the Agribusiness Development Corporation who is in control of the 1,200 acres of agricultural land in central Oahu acquired from the Galbraith Estate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
HOUSING

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2397
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Tuesday, February 04, 2014
2:45pm
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Slom, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF stands in strong support of SB 2397, that creates an agricultural technology park under the high technology development corporation, within DBEDT.

Hawaii Farm Bureau applauds the sponsors of this measure and offers the following comments.

We respectfully request that Hawaii Farm Bureau be specifically added to the list of agencies cued for consultation. The list, while not limited, identifies only government agencies. Government talking with government is typically not the best way to solve modern technological problems. Some of the most widely used and successful technologies are products of the private sector. Consultation with practical users of agricultural technology may reveal that the 'technology gap' is not as wide as the legislation suggests. Moreover, direct interaction with agricultural producers that need and ultimately would use technologies developed through this agricultural technology park is a link that is crucial to the success of the project. This is a prime example of an opportunity for public-private partnership.

Please include the following amendment:

§206M- Guidelines. (a) The board shall develop the agricultural technology park in consultation with but not limited to the following agencies: Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, department of agriculture, department of education, agribusiness development corporation, and University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

We look forward to working together to further develop this initiative.

Please pass **SB 2397 as amended**.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.