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HVCA

LATE TESTIMONY

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HAWAII VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION

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Testimony Presented Before the  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
February 29, 2016 at 10:05 a.m.

By  
**Melialani James**  
President  
Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA)

In Consideration of  
**SB 2940 SD1 – Relating to technology transfer at the University of Hawaii**

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) respectfully submits testimony in support of SB 2940 SD1 to clarify and modernize the application of state ethics principles set forth in the state ethics code to technology transfer activities sponsored by the University of Hawaii.

Since its founding in 1988, the Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) has stood as a nexus for entrepreneurs, capital foundation, and networking opportunities in Hawaii. Fostering entrepreneurship through education and exposure to prime members of our business community continues to be our goal as we strive to grow a vibrant and successful venture community.

UH has a significant amount of academic research that has viable commercial potential. Successful commercialization contributes directly to the State's economy, its academic and business reputation and to creating diverse, well-paying jobs and careers. In an effort to continue the momentum of building this innovation economy in Hawaii, the application of state ethics principles must be clarified and modernized to comport with the best practices of technology transfer programs at other universities to retain talent and innovation in Hawaii.

HVCA is committed to working with XLR8UH, and will actively connect newly formed companies to its wide network in order to maintain competitiveness and grow the industry. We fully agree on the relevance and importance of SB 2940 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments on this bill.



Testimony Presented Before the  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
February 29, 2016 at 10:05 a.m.

By  
**Tarik Sultan**  
Managing Partner  
Sultan Ventures

In Consideration of  
**SB 2940 SD1 – Relating to technology transfer at the University of Hawaii**

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

Sultan Ventures respectfully submits testimony in **support** of SB 2940 SD1 to clarify and modernize the application of state ethics principles set forth in the state ethics code to technology transfer activities sponsored by the University of Hawaii.

Sultan Ventures is a Hawaii-based boutique venture firm focusing on early stage startups and investments. As a startup catalyst, we provide pivotal resources via our powerful network of experts and investors. We work closely with innovative startups, and run the XLR8UH program in partnership with the University of Hawaii (UH), providing the hands-on expertise and access to capital needed to accelerate growth, as well as with investors, performing the diligence necessary to make strategic investment decisions.

We believe that by clearly allowing UH employees to ethically pursue commercialization of innovative research, our innovation economy will continue to grow. Through our work with the XLR8UH program, we see the impact that commercialization efforts can have on economic growth in our community.

Commercialization of innovative products will drive our innovation economy forward, leading to job creation, diversification of workforce opportunities, and further economic growth. It is essential that the application of state ethics principles to UH must be clarified and modernized to comport with the best practices of technology transfer programs at other universities for UH to remain competitive in the market. These efforts will continue to drive innovative research and entrepreneurial development throughout the university. We fully support this effort to continue the momentum of building this innovation economy and to retain talent and innovation in Hawaii.

We urge you to pass this legislation so that Hawaii can take its rightful place as a birthplace of innovation and provider of 21st century careers and jobs. We encourage you to visit both

XLR8UH and Sultan Ventures and see first hand the entrepreneurial efforts underway in our state.

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





Testimony Presented Before the  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
February 29, 2016 at 10:05 a.m.

By  
**Omar Sultan**  
Managing Partner  
XLR8UH

In Consideration of  
**SB 2940 SD1 – Relating to technology transfer at the University of Hawaii**

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

XLR8UH respectfully submits testimony in **support** of SB 2940 SD1 to clarify and modernize the application of state ethics principles set forth in the state ethics code to technology transfer activities sponsored by the University of Hawaii.

By clearly allowing University employees to ethically pursue commercialization of innovative research, our innovation economy will continue to grow. We have seen first hand through our program that commercialization efforts lead to job creation, diversification of workforce opportunities and economic growth.

With its undeniable strengths in ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture and astronomy; and its growing strength in cybersecurity and health sciences – the University of Hawaii has a significant amount of academic research that has viable commercial potential. Successful commercialization contributes directly to the State's economy, its academic and business reputation and to creating diverse, well-paying jobs and careers

One of the first of its kind in the nation, XLR8UH is a public-private partnership with University of Hawaii through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation and Honolulu-based Sultan Ventures, a local venture accelerator. Although just over a year old, XLR8UH is already a multiple award winning, venture accelerator program, nationally recognized by both the Small Business Association and the Economic Development Association. Just this month, XLR8UH was informed that it is one of 17 - of over 170 contestants in the nation -- to receive funding under the Department of Commerce Regional Innovation Strategies i6 Challenge, that makes small, targeted, high-impact investments to support startup creation, innovation and help turn technology into jobs. The funding supports the development and expansion of new and existing Proof-of-Concept and Commercialization Centers.