

SB2943

Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH.
Report Title:	University of Hawaii; Hawaii Innovation Initiative
Description:	Provides express legal authority to enable the University of Hawaii to create, promote, and participate in new economic enterprises that use university research and provide workforce opportunities for affiliated university personnel.
Companion:	HB2414
Package:	Governor
Current Referral:	HEA/EET/JDL, WAM
Introducer(s):	KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts,
Economic Development, Environment and Technology,
and
Judiciary and Labor
February 11, 2016 at 1:21 pm
by
Vassilis L. Syrmos
Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i

SB 2943 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this bill which would provide UH express statutory authority to encourage, promote, financially support and directly participate in the commercialization of university-generated research. The legal framework is adapted from chapter 211F, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, applicable to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT).

With its array of program strengths in ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture and astronomy; and its growing strength in cybersecurity and health sciences -- UH is the primary public institution generating academic research in the state.

A portion of the academic research has the potential to be converted to commercially viable products. In the past, UH secured patents on its inventions and licensed the patents to private companies willing to risk commercialization. After observing how UH's mainland public university counterparts promote innovation and research, it is clear that University of Hawai'i needs to be more active in its support and more focused in its efforts to commercialize its research products.

The University of Hawai'i established a proof of concept center/venture accelerator program named "XLR8UH" to turn university-related research into viable commercial products in cooperation with private investment. However, if a clear legal framework authorizing UH to participate directly and indirectly in new enterprises were established, UH could more efficiently contribute to this state-wide initiative. This express legal authority would reduce the uncertainty in creating, financing, and operating new ventures affiliated with UH, and would thereby induce greater private sector participation in promising concepts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Omar Sultan
Managing Partner
XLR8UH

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

XLR8UH respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of SB 2943 to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

A clear legal framework, authorizing UH to participate directly and indirectly with enterprises such as the proof-of-concept and venture accelerator, XLR8UH, is needed to reduce uncertainty and to facilitate the development and commercialization of innovative UH-based research enterprises.

With its undeniable strengths in ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture and astronomy; and its growing strength in cybersecurity and health sciences -- 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

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 week, 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.

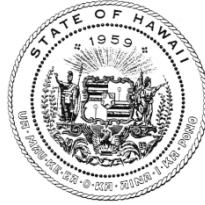
The bill before you is intended to eliminate the unnecessary delays and confusion that impede the progress of XLR8UH and the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects.

As established in prior legislation, other state agencies currently have explicit statutory authority to transform promising concepts into viable economic drivers. For example, chapter 211F, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, establishes the Hawai'i Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) and confers broad statutory powers to encourage economic development and diversification in Hawai'i. This state-established corporation may also use public funds to co-invest with private interest.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR

PAULA A. YOUNGLING
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY
AND
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

February 11, 2016, 1:21 P.M.

Senate Bill No. 2943
RELATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai and Keith-Aragan, Vice-Chairs Slom and Shimabukuro, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2943. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of this bill, but opposes the exemption language on page 8, lines 14 to 17, which would allow funds to be expended without regard to HRS 103D.

Statutory exemptions are contrary to the Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code), section 103D-102, HRS, on the applicability of the chapter that states in part "...shall apply to all procurement contracts made by governmental bodies whether the consideration for the contract is cash, revenues, realizations, receipts, or earnings..." Any governmental agency with the authority to expend funds should be in compliance with chapter 103D, which promotes the policy of fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement system; fosters effective broad-based competition; and increases public confidence in public procurement.

One of public procurement's primary objectives is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in the awarding of contracts. Another critical objective is to ensure disclosure and public visibility into the way tax-payer dollars are being spent. As such, along with open competition the Code provides safeguards to ensure procurement integrity, determination of fair and reasonable pricing, public notice, and transparency. The Code also provides consistency in the manner in which purchasing agencies procure goods, services, and construction.

Exemptions to the Code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies for this authority, will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurement processes provided in the Code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning or consideration of protections for the State in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set

requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. It also means the authority is not required to adhere to the Code's procurement integrity laws.

To provide fairness and consistency, and due process for vendors/contractors, the Code offers a legal and contractual remedy process to resolve protested solicitations and awards, which includes impartial reviews by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs administrative hearings process and the ability to request judicial review. The protest process also protects agencies and taxpayers from onerous and baseless protests, minimizes delays and disruptions in the award of contracts, and supports a prompt resolution.

To ensure all vendors/contractors who seek public contracts compete on equal footing they are required to demonstrate compliance with Hawaii laws. The Code requires potential vendors/contractors to comply with Hawaii laws prior to award of a contract, i.e. DOTAX Tax Clearance Certificate including IRS certification, DLIR Certificate of Compliance; DCCA Certificate of Good Standing; or Hawaii Compliance Express (HCE) Certificate of vendor compliance. Upon completion of goods provided or services performed, and before final payment is made, a vendor/contractor is again required to demonstrate compliance with Hawaii laws, thereby assuring that public funds are paid to compliant vendors/contractors.

Open bidding procedures assures that the State obtains value, and potential vendors/contractors are treated fairly. Those who lack a working knowledge of the Code, may view it as a cumbersome process. The SPO believes that it is vital to good government to have a fair and consistent process to award government contracts that hold agencies responsible and accountable for their actions.

The SPO is against exempting the University of Hawaii for the activities that surround innovation and commercialization initiative implementation from the Code, as it is not in the best interest of government, the business community, and the general public. The Code establishes a time-tested, fair, reliable set of rules and processes for award of contracts.

In conclusion, there is no compelling reason to statutorily exempt the University of Hawaii support the innovation and commercialization initiative implementation from the Code. The SPO recommends amending page 8, lines 14 to 17 to read as follows:

(b) Revenues deposited into this special fund may be expended by the university for all costs and expenses associated with the operation of this program without regard to chapters 76, 78, 89, 102, 103, ~~and~~ but shall be in accordance with chapter 103D.

Thank you.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Higher Education & the Arts,
Committee on Economic Development, Environment, & Technology, and
Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:21 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2943 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
RESEARCH**

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Slom and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2943, which provides express legal authority to enable the University of Hawaii to create, promote, and participate in new economic enterprises that use university research and provide workforce opportunities for affiliated university personnel.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The University of Hawaii is the state's public institution supporting an array of programs such as ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture, astronomy, and more. Much of the research produced by these many fields have strong commercial potential that has not been capitalized. In order to reach its full potential, UH needs to proactively move these research projects to commercialization in order to become a major contributor to the state's economy and workforce. SB 2943 would create the second state agency with this capability that could help move projects along and achieving maximum commercial potential within the University.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

THE CIVIL BEAT
LAW CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Honorable Sam Slom, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony Opposing S.B. 2943, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Research
Hearing: February 11, 2016 at 1:21 p.m.

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization whose primary mission concerns solutions that promote government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **opposition** to the breadth of the confidentiality provision in S.B. 2943.

S.B. 2943 goes much further than protecting legitimate concerns about trade secrets or confidential business information – which information has been protected from disclosure under Chapter 92F for more than two decades. *See, e.g.,* OIP Op. No. 94-14 at 5-6. The bill purports to protect from disclosure any “commercial or financial information” about UH’s commercialization efforts regardless whether it would satisfy the well-established State (and federal) standard for confidentiality. If the University will be spending public funds on potentially risky technology transfer projects, the public should have access to understand the nature of the risks undertaken. The existing confidentiality standards under Chapter 92F preserve the public interest.

The model from Hawai'i Strategic Development Corporation (referenced in UH’s Justification Sheet) is different. Here, the University is investing in *University* research, not private enterprise. And S.B. 2943 omits the counterbalancing HSDC provisions that protect the public interest. *E.g.,* HRS §§ 211-2 (HSDC must make “provision for the recovery of its expenditures, as far as possible”), 211F-7 (program evaluations at three years and limits on how and in whom HSDC can invest). There is no justification for providing the University unrestrained authority to spend taxpayer monies **and** placing a blanket of confidentiality over the projects.

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 11, 2016
Page 2

Finally, it is unclear why financial information is public record only when the University purchases a qualified security. The public has a comparable interest in access to information when the University provides loans or other financial assistance to a project. Again, while S.B. 2943 borrows select provisions from the HSDC chapter, it does not incorporate all the necessary elements, such as the definitions section.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development, Environment and
Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Susan Yamada
Executive Director
Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE)

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

The Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

The XLR8UH Proof of Concept Commercialization Center focuses on early stage innovation and talent affiliated with the University of Hawai‘i. XLR8UH fills the critical void that was historically present as nascent technologies and novice entrepreneurs attempted to cross the “commercialization chasm” or “valley of death”. XLR8UH therefore provides much needed guidance, support, and investment resources, and its programs will help nurture the efforts of regionally developed intellectual property, entrepreneurs, and startups.

PACE is a champion for entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of Hawaii (UH). The center’s educational and experiential programs demand young students to think entrepreneurially.

XLR8UH’s program engages all the necessary alliances between the business community, the university, and the greater startup and venture communities that will be necessary to execute a successful program. A clear legal framework, authorizing UH to participate directly and indirectly with enterprises such as the proof-of-concept and venture accelerator, XLR8UH, is needed to reduce uncertainty and to facilitate the development and commercialization of innovative UH-based research enterprises.

PACE is committed to working with XLR8UH, and will actively connect and support newly formed companies with our wide network of resources in order to maintain competitiveness and drive the economic well being of Hawai‘i. We fully agree on the relevance and importance of SB 2943 to accelerate entrepreneurial talent development and early stage commercialization of University of Hawaii innovations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



650 Iwilei Road, Suite 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, USA

Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development, Environment and
Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Bee Leng Chua, PhD
Executive Director, HiBEAM

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the
Committees:

HiBEAM **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote,
financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related
research.

The XLR8UH Proof of Concept Commercialization Center focuses on early stage innovation and talent
affiliated with the University of Hawai‘i. XLR8UH fills the critical void that was historically present as nascent
technologies and novice entrepreneurs attempted to cross the “commercialization chasm” or “valley of death”.
XLR8UH therefore provides much needed guidance, support, and investment resources, and its programs will
help nurture the efforts of regionally developed intellectual property, entrepreneurs, and startups.

HiBEAM was created to help launch and build promising early stage Hawaii technology, biotechnology and life
sciences companies by providing expert professional advice and access to funding sources. HiBEAM assembles
teams of advisors to function like a "virtual" or "shadow" board of directors for client companies. The virtual
board is drawn from the finance, entrepreneurial, and professional services sectors. HiBEAM tailors the
composition of each virtual board to fit the specific needs of the entrepreneur. HiBEAM also assembles teams of
advisors to help early stage entrepreneurs, scientists, and inventors through a Springboard Forum process.

XLR8UH’s program engages all the necessary alliances between the business community, the university, and
the greater startup and venture communities that will be necessary to execute a successful program. 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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH
research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

HiBEAM is committed to working with XLR8UH, and we fully agree on the relevance and importance of this
bill to accelerate entrepreneurial talent development and early stage commercialization of University of Hawaii
innovations, which align with our initiatives, along with our broader commitment to develop a sustainable
economy in the State of Hawaii. We look forward to continued partnerships through this program.

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



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Dan Nash
Founder and COO
Comprendio

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai'i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

Comprendio **strongly supports** SB2943. The bill proposes to authorize The University of Hawai'i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

Comprendio is a local startup and one of the XLR8UH cohort teams. Comprendio is a web platform that engages every student with real-time feedback before, during, and after instruction. We provide instructors with a cloud-based tool that effectively assesses learner understanding by identifying and tracking what learners know with real-time learning feedback

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai'i as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

RealGreen Power

ZERO POLLUTION ZERO WASTE

Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Dennis Furukawa
Founder and CEO
RealGreen Power

In Consideration of
SB 2943 - Relating to University of Hawai'i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

RealGreen Power **strongly supports** SB 2943. The bill proposes to authorize The University of Hawai'i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

RealGreen Power is a local startup and one of the XLR8UH cohort teams. We utilize UH IP to establish sustainable and profitable energy solutions around the world, bringing together region-specific natural, human and economic resources to benefit local communities and the global environment. Our unique process provides opportunities for industries, organizations and investors to create, own and operate profitable enterprises that produce clean energy and clean water, without pollution or waste.

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai'i as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

By: 

Dennis Furukawa, CEO, RealGreen Power Inc.



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Donavan Kealoha
Senior Associate
Startup Capital Ventures

In Consideration of
SB 2943 - Relating to University of Hawai'i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

Startup Capital Ventures (SCV) **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai'i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

SCV invests in early-stage, capital efficient B2B technology companies with proof of first revenue. Our initial investment ranges from \$250,000 up to \$1 million with reserves for future funding rounds. Typically co-investing with other leading funds at the Series Seed and Series A rounds.

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai'i as a whole.

SCV 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 2943.

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



**Testimony to the Senate Committees:
Higher Education and the Arts
Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
Judiciary and Labor
February 11, 2016
1:21 p.m.
Conference Room 224**

RE: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH – SENATE BILL 2943

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable strongly supports Senate Bill 2943, relating to the University of Hawaii Research. The bill is to provide explicit statutory authority for the University of Hawaii to create, promote and participate in the economic use of University research activity.

The Hawaii Business Roundtable strongly believes that a strong research and innovation sector led by the University of Hawaii can be a large and important magnet for new money and new fields of job growth in Hawai`i. We concur with the Legislature that the commercialization of the intellectual property created by basic and applied research conducted at the University of Hawaii, holds great promise to contribute to the creation of jobs and economic growth. It is a vital component of the creation of jobs in the local economies of many universities across the country and we believe it could be done here in Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii has many areas of program strengths, including ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture and astronomy, cybersecurity and health sciences. These efforts have already attracted numerous technology start up organizations that have been attracted by and benefited from the research done in these areas that have been recognized internationally. This legislation will help foster even greater growth in this sector.

Providing the University with the express authority to engage in economic activities already conducted by other state agencies is a significant step and will signal Hawaii's willingness and desire to grow our Innovation Economy. The workforce opportunities created will benefit our young people immensely.

We realize that there must be a well-articulated policy and strong management procedures, to insure the balance between the economic activities and the benefits to the public. The members of the Roundtable are prepared and willing to lend our support and expertise in collaboration with the University.

This legislation is one very good example of growing our Research and Innovation Economy which is critical for the future of our young people. It provides them with the choice to live and work in their island home -- and the opportunity to come home after gaining experience on the mainland or abroad. Furthermore, it helps to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of all who live here.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable

From: [Jason Rushin](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2943 2/11 1:20pm
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:51:47 PM

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development, Environment
and Technology/Judiciary and Labor
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Jason Rushin
Aloha Startups

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the
Committees:

Aloha Startups would like to express our strong support of SB 2943, a bill that proposes to
authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly
participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

Aloha Startups provides a forum for articles and opinions covering Hawaii’s startup
ecosystem.

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. This bill will assist
in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high
potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

Aloha Startups is committed to working with XLR8UH and agree on the relevance and
importance of SB 2943.

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



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Kenneth Huang
Lead Organizer
Startup Weekend Honolulu

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i Research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

Startup Weekend Honolulu would like to express our **strong support** of SB 2943, a bill that authorizes The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

Startup Weekend is a global startup event bringing together communities of entrepreneurs, investors, students, and curious individuals into one space. Global events like ours is made possible locally by generous sponsorship and support by private and public individuals and organizations.

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

As an integral part of developing the next generation of aspiring entrepreneurs for an innovation economy, Startup Weekend Honolulu is committed to working with XLR8UH, and we fully agree on the relevance and importance of SB 2943.

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

Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Mark Quezada
Co-founder
Hobnob

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

Mark Quezada **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

Hobnob is a local startup that helps users send photo-based, beautiful designer event invitations, straight from a phone. Featured on a variety of news outlets such as Tech Crunch, Business Insider, and Product Hunt, the Hobnob team is based right here in Honolulu.

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

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

Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Tiffany Quezada
Co-founder
Hobnob

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

Tiffany Quezada **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research. As an alum, I would love research from my alma mater to have a direct impact on the innovation sector.

Hobnob is a local startup that helps users send photo-based, beautiful designer invitations to manage parties, straight from a phone. Featured on a variety of news outlets such as Tech Crunch, Business Insider, and Product Hunt, the Hobnob team is based right here in Honolulu.

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

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

BLUE PLANET SOFTWARE, INC.



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development, Environment and
Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Maya Rogers
President and CEO
Blue Planet Software

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the
Committees:

Blue Planet Software **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to
promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-
related research.

Blue Planet Software is the sole agent for the Tetris® brand and the founder of Blue Startups, Hawaii’s
first venture accelerator that helps early stage startups with investments.

Over the years we have worked closely with XLR8UH and they have partnered with us on various events
such as East Meets West, Startup Paradise Demo Days, and community events. We believe that UH has a
significant amount of academic research that has viable commercial potential and this successful
commercialization contributes directly to the State's economy.

We support this bill because it will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of
UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maya Rogers', is written over a white background.

Maya Rogers

EST. 1988

HVCA

HAWAII VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION

Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Melialani James
President
Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA)

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) **strongly supports** this bill to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

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 2943.

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



Testimony Presented Before the
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**
February 11, 2016 at 1:21pm

By
Peter Rowan
Entrepreneur in Residence
XLR8UH

In Consideration of
SB 2943 – Relating to University of Hawai‘i research

Chairs Taniguchi, Wakai, Keith-Agaran; Vice Chairs Slom, Shimabukuro and members of the Committees:

I respectfully and **strongly support** SB 2943. The bill proposes to authorize The University of Hawai‘i (UH) to promote, financially support and directly participate in innovation and commercialization of university-related research.

I am an entrepreneur in residence for the XLR8UH program and work closely with many of the cohort teams. Many of our teams utilize UH IP as well as spur economic development here in our local community. Support of these entrepreneurs is crucial to the further development of our innovation ecosystem.

A clear legal framework, authorizing UH to participate directly and indirectly with enterprises such as the proof-of-concept and venture accelerator, XLR8UH, is needed to reduce uncertainty and to facilitate the development and commercialization of innovative UH-based research enterprises.

UH also 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. This bill will assist in streamlining the progress of XLR8UH, the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects, and innovation in Hawai‘i as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2943 on Feb 11, 2016 13:21PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 2:24:17 PM

SB2943

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for HEA/EET/JDL on Feb 11, 2016 13:21PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I oppose allowing the University to have this much decision making power without public input. This is a public University and the public must always have a say in the decision This could include issues like biotech experimentation and pharmaceutical experimentations that may not be in alignment with the wishes of the people. These research funding decisions should always have public input before any taxpayers money gets spent. RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH. Provides express legal authority to enable the University of Hawaii to create, promote, and participate in new economic enterprises that use university research and provide workforce opportunities for affiliated university personnel. Mahalo,

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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