



**LATE**

Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts/Economic Development,  
Environment and Technology/Judiciary and Labor**  
Thursday, February 11, 2016  
1:21 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
**SB2943**  
**RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH.**

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

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** SB2943 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.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs.

The XLR8UH Proof of Concept Commercialization Center was funded by UH to accelerate 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.

SB 2943 allows UH to engage in economic promotion activities through programs like XLR8UH. We have worked successfully with the XLR8UH principals and look forward to continued partnerships with XLR8UH and UH.

HTDC defers to UH on the implementation of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.