

SB 627

Testimony –

Measure Title: RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

Report Title: Relating to High Technology; University of Hawaii; Leave

Description: Requires the University of Hawaii to extend the current land lease agreement with the high technology development corporation for no less than ten years upon expiration of the current agreement and to maintain identical terms.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/EDT, WAM

Introducer(s): DELA CRUZ, CHUN OAKLAND, INOUE, KAHELE, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, WAKAI



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
and
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
February 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm
by
Vassilis L. Syrmos
Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Hawai'i

SB 627 – RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Slom, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i strongly opposes SB 627 which requires the University of Hawai'i to extend the current land lease with the High Technology Development Corporation for no less than 10 years from the date of expiration of the existing lease.

In 1990, the University of Hawai'i entered into an agreement under which the Mānoa Innovation Center (MIC), constructed on University land, was to be leased to the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) for a 25-year term, after which the facility was to revert to UH. All parties agreed, in writing, to this arrangement.

Since taking office last year, UH President David Lassner has set forth his Strategic Directions 2015-21, which comprises of four key initiatives for the University of Hawai'i. One of them is the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, a bold and proactive partnership with the local private sector and government to build a thriving innovation, research, education and training enterprise that will develop a third major economic sector for the state -- fueled by UH's plans to aggressively commercialize its research and to employ and develop top researchers in several focus areas over the next decade.

In order to accomplish this, new and remodeled facilities are essential and an expanded MIC will play an important role in achieving that goal. The University is still in the formative stages of defining exactly what form and structure will best support this needed innovation agenda. However, it is expected that these activities will be based at the Mānoa Innovation Center, which is already a significant site for the University's research enterprise. In fact, UH and its related programs are already the single largest set of tenants in the facility and pays the largest portion of the rent, which goes to support HTDC operations. The University could occupy all the existing space at MIC, with its programs that are renting facilities elsewhere, immediately.

The University does support the development of a technology park on O'ahu, the only island without such a capability. However, MIC is not large enough to house the

activities normally found within a technology park, so another venue should be found to provide full support for emerging technology businesses. HTDC would be the natural organization to lead such an initiative and UH would support them.

The University of Hawai`i believes this is an opportune time for the State to invest in the development of high technology to diversify and strengthen the local economy. However, this should not be done at the expense of research growth and the new innovation agenda developed by UH.

The University of Hawai`i urges the joint committee to preserve the original agreement made with UH at the time MIC was constructed by not passing this measure.

Written Statement of
CRAIG NAKANISHI
Chair of the Board of Directors
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

Tuesday, February 17, 2015
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
In consideration of

SB627 RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Slom, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and the Arts and Economic Development & Technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **strongly supports** SB627 relating to extending the land lease at the Manoa Innovation Center.

This past year the Board of Directors of HTDC set forth a vision to drive economic growth by facilitating innovation in all sectors of the economy. Specifically, we set an ambitious goal calling for the creation of 80,000 innovation jobs that pay \$80,000 or more by 2030. In connection with this 80|80 initiative, we seek to create an environment that inspires our younger generations to come back to Hawaii, that emboldens our current workforce to stretch beyond their imagination, and that strives for a place where the brightest minds choose to work.

In order to be successful in this endeavor, we must all be willing to embrace change, be willing to fail and learn from that failure, give people the confidence to try things they would not ordinarily attempt, and to keep going even though the outcome is unknown, just because it is worth trying. Together we can succeed.

However, we cannot focus our efforts on job creation if we are preoccupied with finding new space and relocating the twenty six (26) businesses (Activision, ADNOVIV, AMEL Technologies, Archinoetics, Autism Training Solutions, Blackhawk, CARDAX, Cut Collective, Dev League LLC, Financial Planning Hawaii, Hawaiian Cool Water, Imua Design Group Inc., Kuehne Agrosystems Co., LLC, Lesson Tracks, Liko Film Incubator, LLC, PICHTER, PV

Tech, Real Estate Strategies, Shopping Made Mobile, Slickage Studios, Seress, LLC dba SOS Tech Solutions, Spectrum Photonics, Startup Capital Ventures, Sudukrew Solutions, Tutor Hawaii, Undefeated Games, Inc., Way Sine) currently generating jobs in the Manoa Innovation Center. If this legislation does not go through, these businesses will have the additional burden and uncertainty associated with relocation, in addition to their everyday stresses of running a startup business.

On a higher level, this legislation sends a larger message to the innovation community – that the legislature supports innovation and new job creation.

HTDC maybe one of the best kept secrets of the State of Hawaii. In the past year, new HTDC projects include construction of the Entrepreneur’s Sandbox in Kakaako, development of three technology parks, and the Neighbor Island Innovation Initiative. I have attached for your perusal a high level fact sheet that shows our impact in FY2013. Highlights include : HTDC SBIR program provided matching funding to 23 Hawaii based companies that received over \$2.7 million in federal Small Business Innovation Research Grants. MIC Incubator tenant Hawaii Coolwater acquired a California based business to increase its global sales. Over 90 graduate companies had 2013 sales of 56 million and contributed \$10 million to the Hawaii tax base. Also attached is the HTDC MIC graduate survey for your information.

The unfortunate aspect is that most of these efforts and our efforts in creating the high wage job opportunities for our future generations will come to a halt if this legislation does not move forward.

We are continuing our discussions with the University of Hawaii to extend the lease, but are also cognizant of the fact that this issue has been discussed for the past ten years without resolution despite annual attempts by HTDC to expand general funds, construct an alternate site, or negotiate an extension. With the lease expiring in 2 months, we feel the issue requires legislative attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

HTDC

HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CURRENT NATIONWIDE INNOVATION ECONOMY

\$1.4 TRILLION

TECHNOLOGY & CREATIVE GROSS TOTAL REVENUE IN THE U.S.

TECHNOLOGY & CREATIVE SECTOR JOBS IN HAWAII

78,800

Innovation Jobs Source: DBEDT. Hawaii's Targeted and Emerging Industries Report. Dec. 2013

80|80 BY 2030

80,000 JOBS EARNING \$80,000

VISION

To create an environment where innovation drives economic growth and where the brightest minds choose to work.

OBJECTIVES

- Economic prosperity on all islands
- Attract prominent innovators and businesses
- Create the right jobs so our keiki can stay in Hawaii
- Increase the survival rate of Hawaii tech companies
- Build Hawaii's reputation as a place to do business

GOAL

Facilitate the creation of 80,000 new jobs with salaries over \$80,000 in technology and innovation by 2030.

Manoa Innovation Center 2800 Woodlawn Drive, Suite 100 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone: (808) 539-3806 • Fax: (808) 539-3795 • info@htdc.org • www.htdc.org

YEAR IN REVIEW

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

8x

Every state dollar invested in HTDC generated \$8 in additional funding and revenue.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANTS*

\$2.7 MILLION

In federal funding was received by 23 companies to whom HTDC HISBIR distributed \$520,000 to develop their products. Five new companies received funding in FY14.

* For more information visit htdc.org/sbir

INFRASTRUCTURE

\$3 MILLION

FOR THE ENTREPRENEUR'S SANDBOX

U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded to construct the Entrepreneur's Sandbox at the Kakaako Collaboration Center with Fisher Hawaii—the first major public-private partnership of its kind for HTDC.

INCUBATORS

64

Companies

18 New

11 Graduates

2 Companies exit, acquired successfully

PROGRAM SUCCESS

90

Graduates

\$56M Total Revenues

\$24M Investments

\$4M SBIR funding

296 High wage jobs

INNOVATE HAWAII

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

20

IH clients are responsible for:

\$10M Internal investment

\$40M Revenue

52 New employees

105 Jobs saved

Q1 Company Name

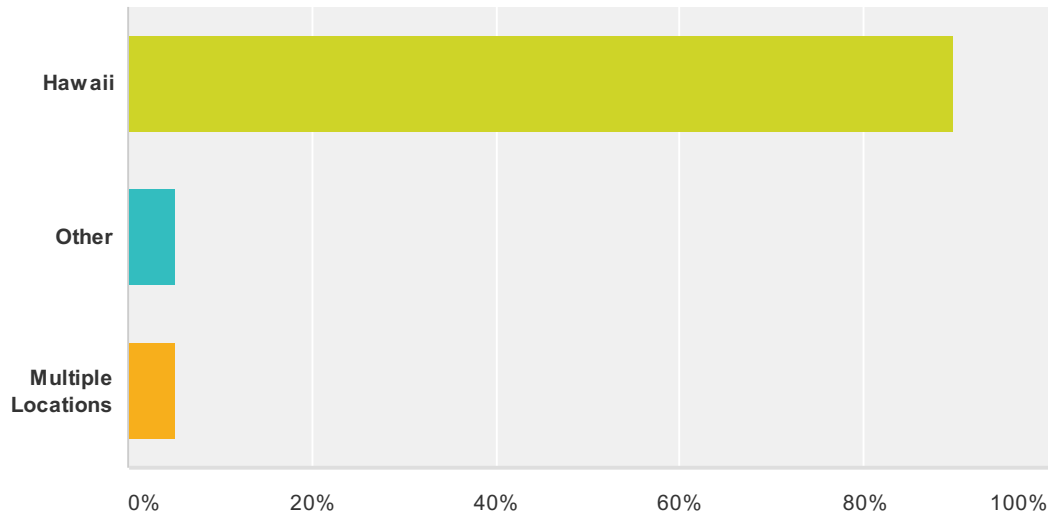
Answered: 40 Skipped: 0

Q2 Name of person filling out this survey:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0

Q3 Where is your company currently located?

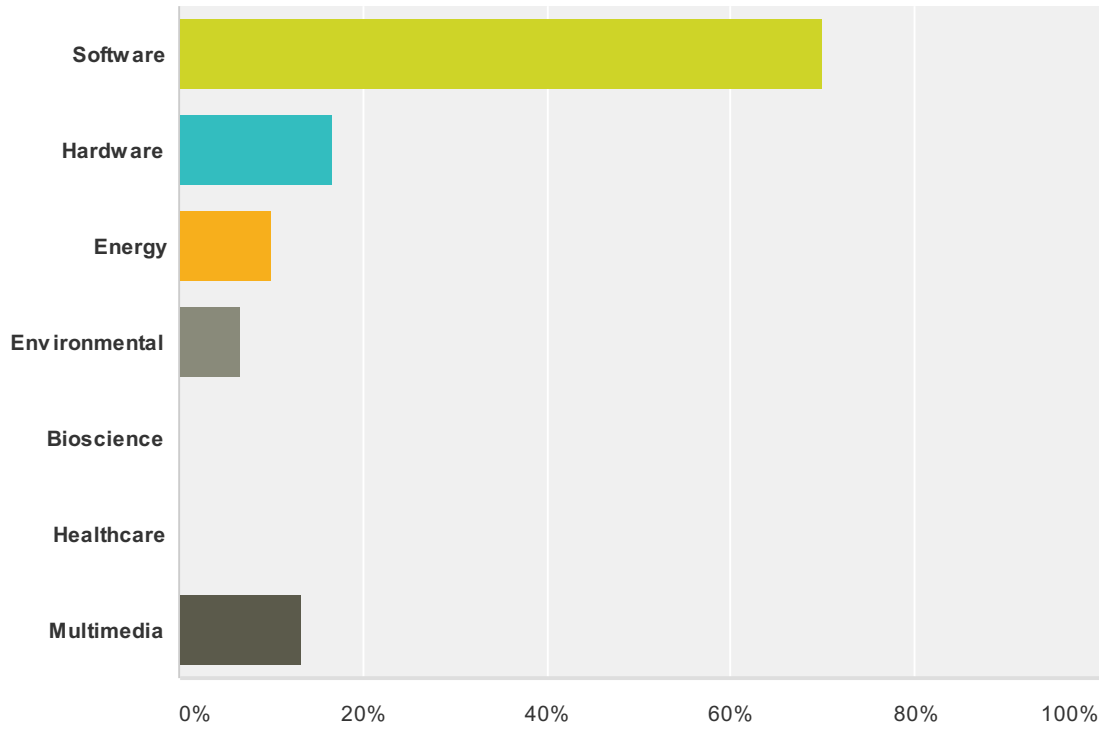
Answered: 39 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Hawaii	89.74% 35
Other	5.13% 2
Multiple Locations	5.13% 2
Total	39

Q4 What Industry are you in?

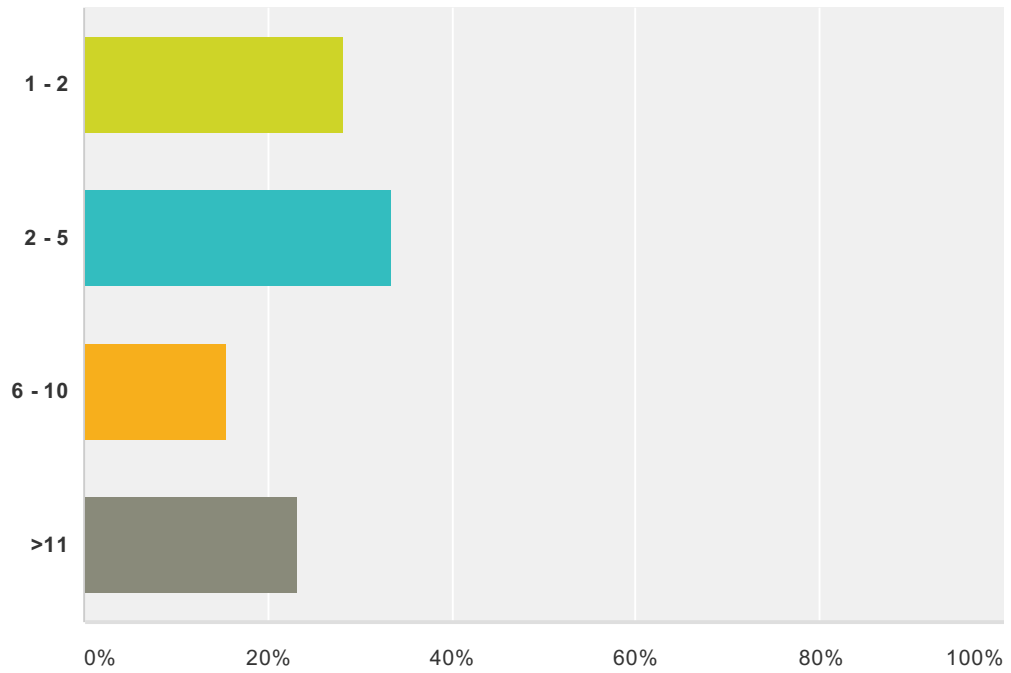
Answered: 30 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses
Software	70% 21
Hardware	16.67% 5
Energy	10% 3
Environmental	6.67% 2
Bioscience	0% 0
Healthcare	0% 0
Multimedia	13.33% 4
Total Respondents: 30	

Q5 Number of employees at time of graduation from HTDC program? If unknown, please enter best estimate.

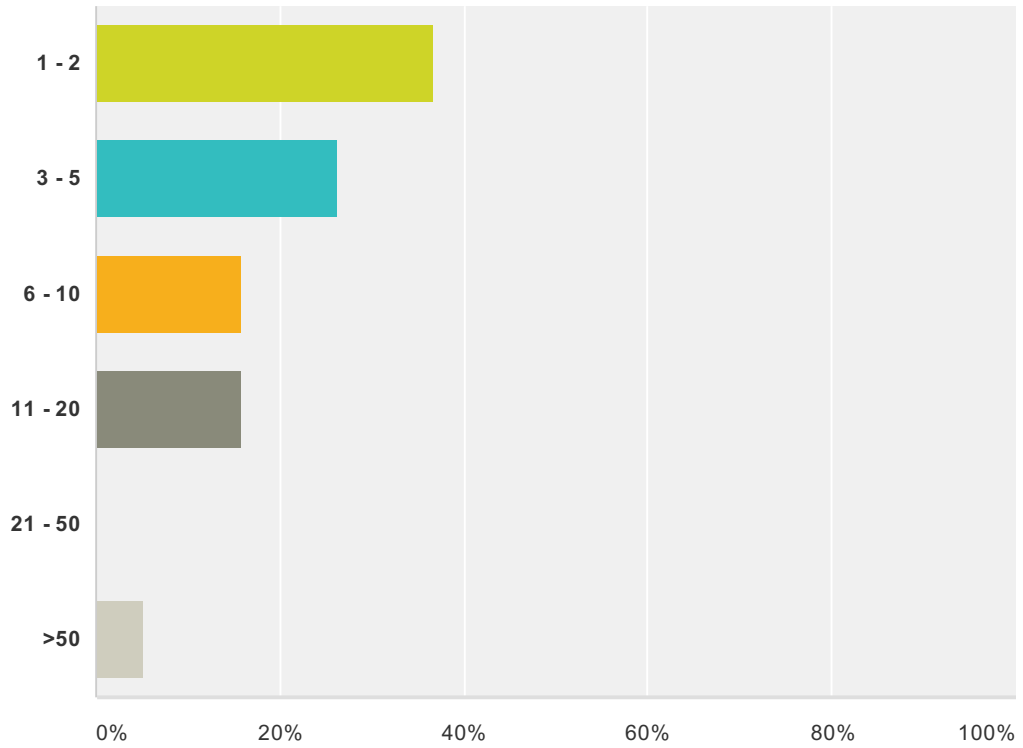
Answered: 39 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
1 - 2	28.21% 11
2 - 5	33.33% 13
6 - 10	15.38% 6
>11	23.08% 9
Total	39

Q6 Current number of employees

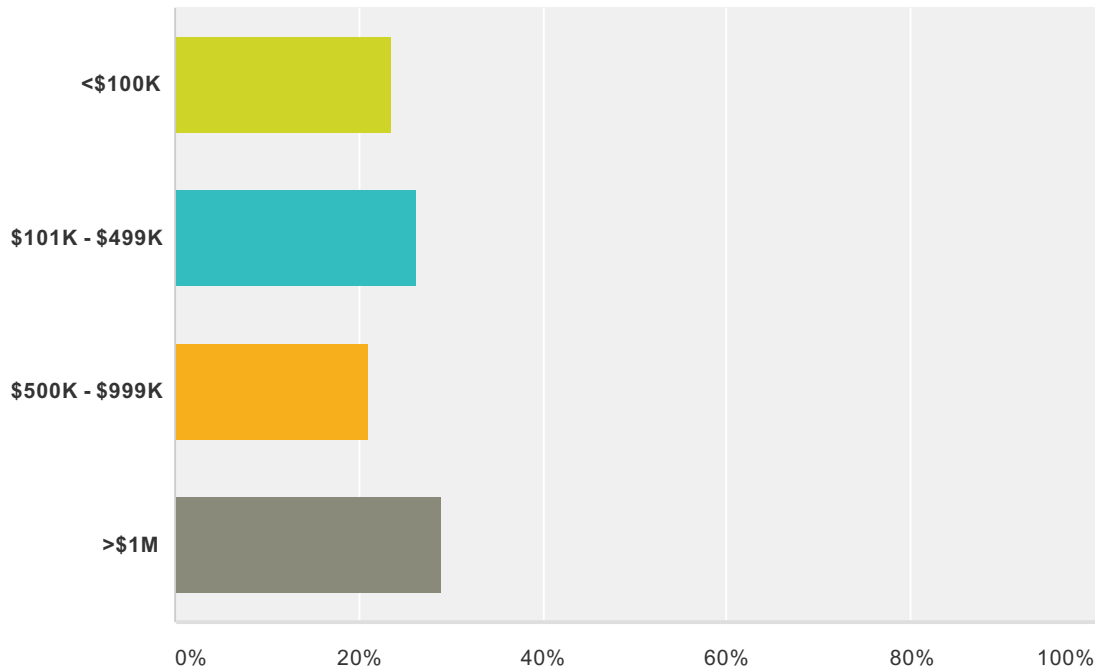
Answered: 38 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
1 - 2	36.84%	14
3 - 5	26.32%	10
6 - 10	15.79%	6
11 - 20	15.79%	6
21 - 50	0%	0
>50	5.26%	2
Total		38

Q7 What was your revenue at the time you graduated from the HTDC program? Please enter your best estimate if unknown.

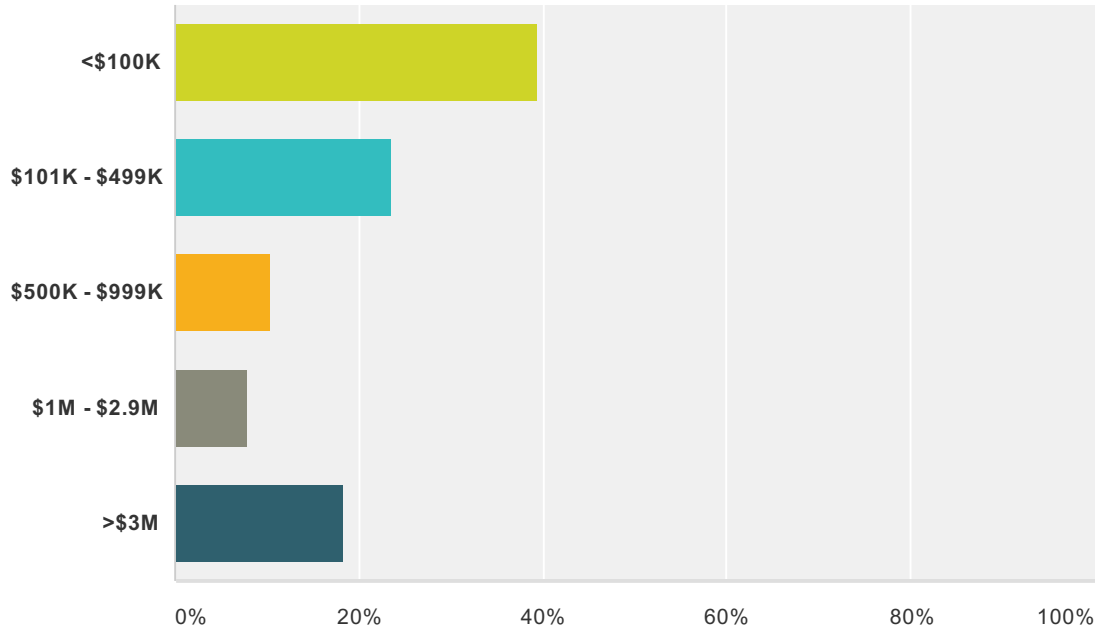
Answered: 38 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
<\$100K	23.68% 9
\$101K - \$499K	26.32% 10
\$500K - \$999K	21.05% 8
>\$1M	28.95% 11
Total	38

Q8 What is your current company revenue?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
<\$100K	39.47% 15
\$101K - \$499K	23.68% 9
\$500K - \$999K	10.53% 4
\$1M - \$2.9M	7.89% 3
>\$3M	18.42% 7
Total	38

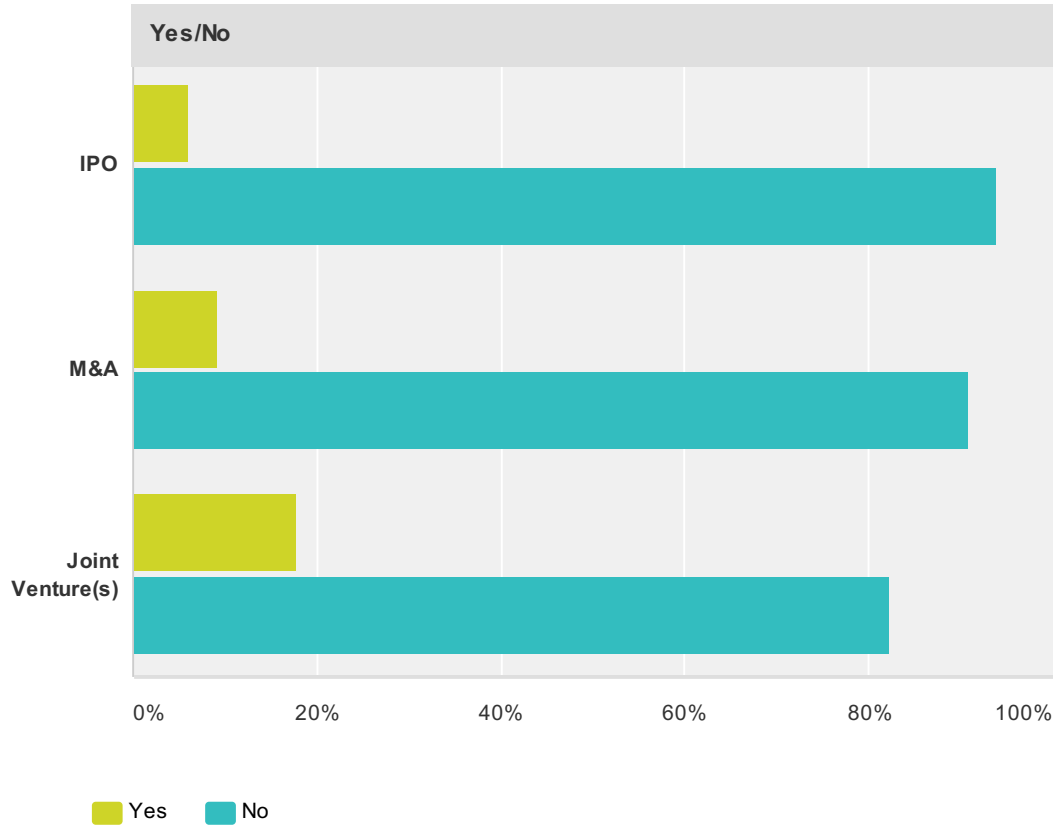
Q9 How much follow-on funding have you received since graduation?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 5

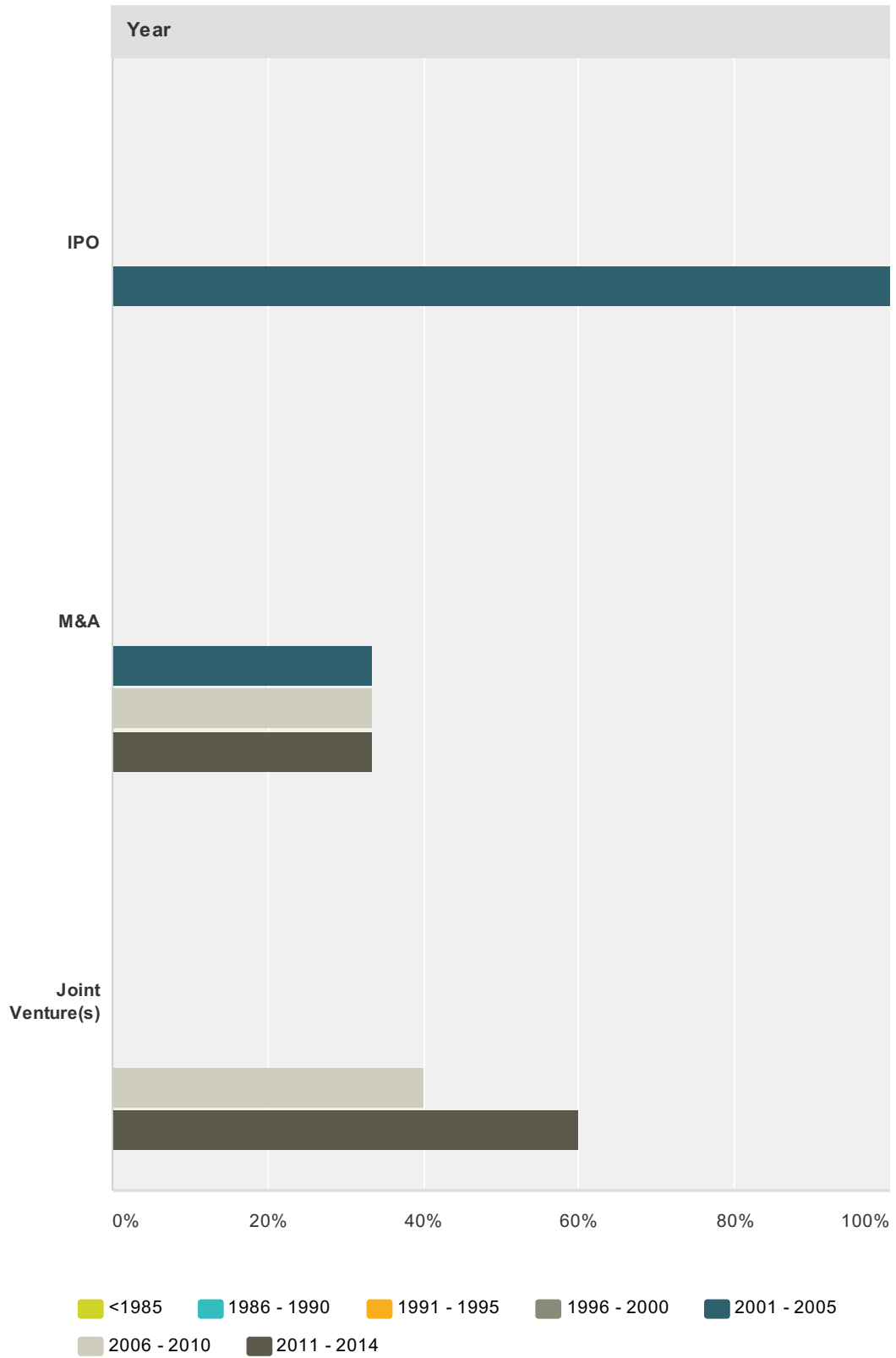
Answer Choices	Responses	
Investment (\$)	91.43%	32
SBIR/Grants (\$)	85.71%	30

Q10 Please note if your company has experienced an expansion event.

Answered: 35 Skipped: 5



HTDC Graduate Company Survey



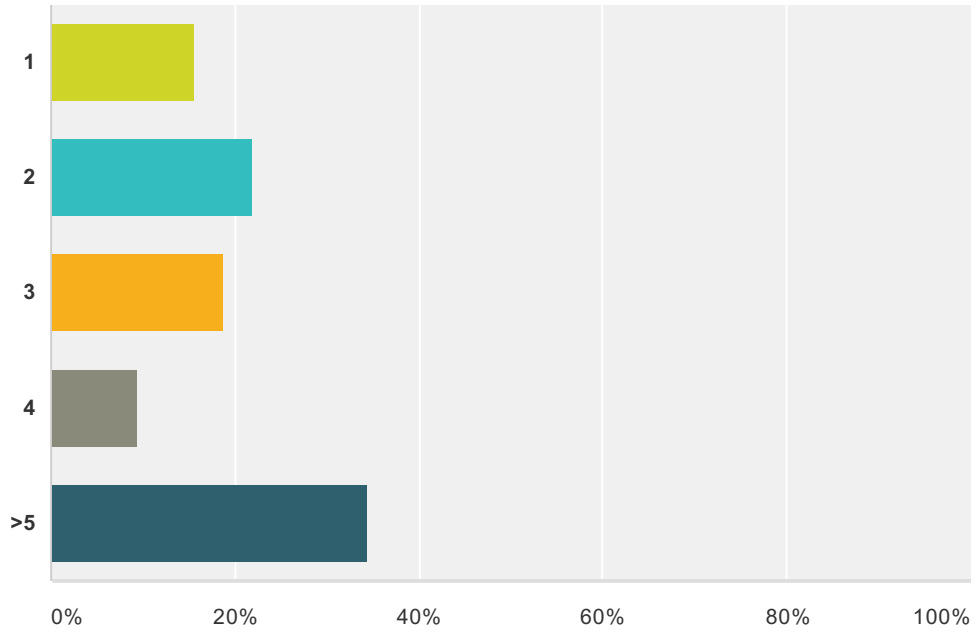
Yes/No			
	Yes	No	Total
IPO	6.06% 2	93.94% 31	33
M&A	9.09% 3	90.91% 30	33

HTDC Graduate Company Survey

Joint Venture(s)		17.65% 6		82.35% 28				34
Year								
	<1985	1986 - 1990	1991 - 1995	1996 - 2000	2001 - 2005	2006 - 2010	2011 - 2014	Total
IPO	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	100% 2	0% 0	0% 0	2
M&A	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	33.33% 1	33.33% 1	33.33% 1	3
Joint Venture(s)	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	40% 2	60% 3	5

Q11 How many products do you currently have in the market?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses	
1	15.63%	5
2	21.88%	7
3	18.75%	6
4	9.38%	3
>5	34.38%	11
Total		32

Q12 Please give a one sentence description of how your company benefited from HTDC. We are asking in support of our CIP request for a new facility. Please include your name and/or the name of your company if we could use your quote in a publication. We greatly appreciate your time and help.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 2

Written Statement of
ROBBIE MELTON
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

Tuesday, February 17, 2015
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
In consideration of

SB627 RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Slom, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and the Arts and Economic Development & Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **strongly supports** SB627 relating to extending the land lease at the Manoa Innovation Center.

The current land lease arrangement expires in April 2015. While HTDC continues discussions with the University of Hawaii (UH) on an extension for the land lease at the Manoa Innovation Center (MIC), the potential loss of Oahu's only technology business incubator and the potential shut down of HTDC remains a statewide concern deserving legislative attention.

MIC is home to 26 tenant companies and 16 companies who are part of the virtual office program. The incubator provides special leasing rates for startup companies to help offset the high costs of company creation. The incubator also provides flexible month to month leases with minimal security deposit which significantly reduces the typical risks associated with starting a business.

Mentoring by HTDC helps the companies get through major growth hurdles to become solid businesses that contribute to the tax base. All of these benefits would not be economically feasible in a privately run incubator, but are cited as the most crucial needs by entrepreneurs in the program. With the MIC, HTDC has efficiently managed this program with a modest budget and has leveraged its efforts to deliver business assistance programs throughout the state.

The loss of the incubator would mean the current tenants and the next generation of new startups would have to find a new place to start. This would undoubtedly result in slower growth for companies, fewer innovation jobs, and would strain Hawaii's credibility for innovation.

The MIC has graduated over 90 companies representing over 300 high wage jobs, nearly \$24 million in investment, and \$56 million in revenue in 2013. The MIC is the birth place for Hawaii's most successful technology companies: Digital Island (1999 \$60MM IPO), Hoku Scientific (2005 \$21MM IPO), and Blue Lava Wireless (2005 Acquired for \$137MM) to name a few. The continued contributions to Hawaii from the founders of these companies are significant. Specifically, Henk Rogers, founder of Tetris and several other startups, who has continued to reinvest in Hawaii's future through the Blue Startups accelerator and the Blue Planet Foundation.

The MIC is the physical front door for new companies and organizations looking to engage with the innovation network. Through the years, the MIC has been a showcase for legislators and VIPs such as Steve Case to learn about the Hawaii tech startup environment. The MIC has also incubated many pilot programs including recent projects such as the INNOVATE Hawaii manufacturing accelerator program assisting the fashion industry; the Energy Excelerator program supporting renewable energy technology companies; and the XLR8UH program supporting new innovation companies with ties to the University of Hawaii. The first cohort of XLR8UH is graduating and several companies have already joined the tech incubator program at MIC.

While the loss of Oahu's only tech incubator is significant because of the loss of companies and jobs, the financial loss to HTDC could force the agency to shut down. Rent revenues generated by the incubator provide the funding for HTDC to operate its programs for innovative companies statewide. Specifically, the rent revenues cover:

- half the salary for each of the HTDC staff
- 100% of HTDC's technology & entrepreneur educational program budget
- match for HTDC's federal manufacturing program funding

HTDC's highly leveraged model generates \$8 of program funding for every \$1 of General Funds received.

Without the incubator programs and revenues generated HTDC could no longer function as the State's leader for Technology Based Economic Development. The loss of the MIC lease would result in HTDC cutting all its programs including new projects such as:

- Construction of the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Kakaako through a federal grant
- Development of three technology parks
- Neighbor Island Innovation Initiative

HTDC started these new projects as part of its ambitious goal of creating 80,000 new tech and innovation jobs earning \$80,000 or more by 2030. The MIC remains a critical component of the infrastructure required for the innovation sector to flourish and due to the fiscal implications of the MIC land lease, HTDC is forced to address this issue first. Recognizing that:

- the legislature has the authority to act when the issue is a statewide matter of concern
- without the lease HTDC would not have any staff
- HTDC is integral to innovation and entrepreneurship which were prioritized in the State Plan by Act 133 last year

HTDC strongly supports SB627. Last legislative session, HTDC's \$23 million capital improvement project (CIP) budget request to build a new technology incubator in Kakaako did not make the final budget. This session, the same request for HTDC was eliminated in the final budget request due to lack of available CIP funding. HTDC is therefore unable to pursue the technology incubator project due to the funding.

HTDC is now under increased pressure to find a timely resolution to extending the MIC land lease in order to maintain its funding. HTDC is cognizant of the fact that increased General funding as a long term solution is a difficult proposition. Even if HTDC were fortunate enough to receive a CIP appropriation to build a new facility in Kakaako, the time to authorize funds, procure through the state system, perform the environmental impact survey, receive all required approvals, move through the appropriate HCDA hearings, and construct a new facility would take several years. Furthermore, once the facility opens, it will take some time to ramp up occupancy.

HTDC will continue its discussions with UH on a lease extension and intends to pursue an alternative site when CIP budget funding becomes available

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Written Statement of

**Anthony Marzi, Founder and President
Hawaii TechWorks, Hilo HI**

before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEA/EDT

Tuesday February 17th, 2015, 2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
In consideration of

SB 627, RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Hawaii TechWorks (HTW) is a tech community in Hilo, with a coworking and event space that is the hub of over a dozen tech professionals and small companies. On behalf of Hawaii TechWorks, I respectfully submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB627, which requires the University of Hawaii to extend the current land lease agreement with High Technology Development Corporation.

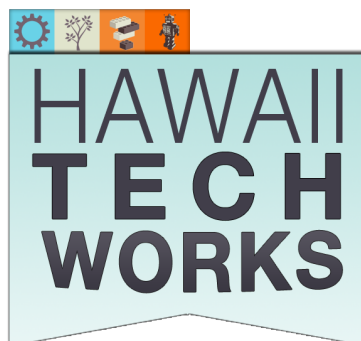
The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) is vital to Hawaii's innovation and entrepreneurial community through:

- Research commercialization grants;
- Technical assistance for manufacturers;
- Tech business incubation programs;
- Innovation research for the transportation industry and other tech industries;
- Startup mentoring workshops and conferences;

Through a memorandum of agreement between HTDC and HTW, signed July 2014, our members in Hilo have the opportunity to utilizing the collaborative space, competitive connectivity speeds, and business infrastructure of the MIC. This resource enables tech professionals in Hilo to expand their network, grow their businesses beyond our community, and participate in the statewide tech industry.

Our emerging tech community in Hilo will suffer if HTDC's programs and facilities at MIC do not continue.

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





Hawaii Tech Exchange

808.495.0797 don@hitx.co 259 Haili Street, Hilo HI 96720

February 16, 2015

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 627 Relating to High Technology

To Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Members of the Senate Committees

I am Donald Kosak, founder of the Hawaii Tech Exchange. The Hawaii Tech Exchange is a community organization that fosters high impact new businesses in STEM fields on the Big Island.

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 627 extending the land lease for a period of time to allow the uninterrupted operation of the Manoa Innovation Center.

The Manoa Innovation Center (MIC) is a key component in the State of Hawaii's high technology community. It not only provides critical incubation space for new companies, it is also a hub for workshops, seminars and networking events within Hawaii's high tech community.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald M. Kosak".

Donald M. Kosak
Founder, Hawaii Tech Exchange
<http://hitx.co/>



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The Cut Collective
2800 Woodlawn Drive, Suite 192
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
808-497-8400
allison@thecutcollectivehi.com
summer@thecutcollectivehi.com

February 16, 2015

To whom it may concern:

We, at the Cut Collective, support bill SB627, and the extension of the University of Hawaii's lease with the High Technology Development Corporation. We are grateful for the support and initial space provided to us by HTDC. Without the facilities and the support staff, we would not have been able to start the Cut Collective in November 2013, and gain the traction that we have over the last year.

Please consider extending the lease with HTDC, what they contribute to start-ups is greatly needed and we know they will continue to support Hawaii's local economy through job creation and entrepreneurialism.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Allison Izu Song
Member/Manager

Summer Shiigi
Member/Manager

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: collin.kobayashi@3d-innovations.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB627 on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Monday, February 16, 2015 2:34:08 PM

SB627

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for HEA/EDT on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Collin Kobayashi	3D Innovations	Support	No

Comments: I would like to express my strong support for SB627 which urges the University of Hawaii to continue the operation of the Manoa Innovation Center by extending the land lease agreement between the University and HTDC until a new center is available to continue these important programs. As a small business owner trying to succeed in Hawaii's economy, HTDC has been instrumental with assisting my business needs by providing access to the Manoa Innovation Center's facilities, networking opportunities, and general start up business expertise. Without their support, operating a small business in the technology sector would prove difficult. Sustaining Hawaii's technology sector is an important facet of the state's economy, and as such small businesses can continue to grow by utilizing HTDC and all of the benefits they offer. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB627. Aloha, Collin Kobayashi President & CEO 3D Innovations LLC

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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Written Statement of

Daniel Leuck
CEO
Ikeyzo, inc.
Cofounder and Chairman of the Board
Contix, inc.

Tuesday, February 17, 2015
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

On behalf of Ikeyzo, inc, formerly a Manoa Innovation Center tenant, I respectfully submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 627, the ten year extension of HTDC's land lease agreement with the University of Hawaii that facilitates uninterrupted operation of the Manoa Innovation Center.

The center played a critical role in the formation and scaling of both Ikeyzo and Contix. In addition to the facility, which is well tuned to a technology startup's needs, we utilized their workshops, professional service provider program, CEO forum and frequently benefitted from the expertise of our neighbor companies as well as HTDC's superb staff.

The center's proximity to UH Manoa allowed us to easily collaborate with the university in numerous ways including working with professors, finding interns who were matches for our needs (many of whom are now employees) and working together on tech conferences that benefitted the community. Together, the University of Hawaii and the Manoa Innovation Center comprise a unique innovation ecosystem that benefits both the school and the center's technology startups in innumerable ways.

It is my sincere hope that many other Hawai'i entrepreneurs will be able to benefit from the Manoa Innovation Center's services and facilities as we have.

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

Sincerely,



Daniel Leuck
CEO
Ikeyzo, inc.

IKAYZO, inc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: todd@hyperspective.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB627 on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM*
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2015 9:29:25 AM

SB627

Submitted on: 2/15/2015

Testimony for HEA/EDT on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Robertson	Hyperspective	Support	No

Comments:

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2800 Woodlawn Drive #101

Honolulu, HI 96822

Support of SB627

February 16, 2015

I am in strong support of SB627. The Tech Startup ecosystem is making good progress and a large part of that is HTDC and available office space near the University. It has been difficult to integrate UH knowledge in the form of intellectual property as well as student participation in the past. With the current status of the Tech Startup ecosystem so strong, especially in software, now we are seeing much more participation between UH resources and companies at the Manoa Innovation Center.

It would be a shame to cut off the progress we have made thus far by moving the Innovation Center further away from UH.

Dave Kozuki

CEO

Tow Choice

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: ryanozawa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB627 on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Saturday, February 14, 2015 4:02:37 PM

SB627

Submitted on: 2/14/2015

Testimony for HEA/EDT on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Ozawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The University of Hawaii recently launched XLR8UH, "a major commitment to transform the university's world-class research and talent into viable products and businesses." I encourage the committee to approve this measure to solidify the HTDC's role at the Manoa Innovation Center, ensuring that the facility continues its complementary mission of fostering innovative local companies.

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February 15, 2015

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair (HEA)
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair (EGH)
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
and Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Bill No. & Title: SB627, Relating to High Technology

Date, Time: Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye and Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Sam Slom and Members of the Committee Economic Development and Technology:

I am Burt Lum, Executive Director of Hawaii Open Data, a non-profit dedicated to advancing open data principles in Hawaii and creating collaborative environments that foster civic innovation. We focus on improving data accessibility and integrity in support of public/private collaboration, government transparency and civic engagement. I am also Founder of Bytemarks, a technology consultancy, co-host of Bytemarks Cafe, a weekly science and technology show on Hawaii Public Radio and have reported on Hawaii's tech scene for many years.

As a tech supporter, I **strongly support SB627, Relating to High Technology**. Hawaii's growing environment for entrepreneurship, startups, business formation and tech innovation is reaching a critical mass and the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) is a key organization at the center of this activity. It is critically important that HTDC continue with their lease arrangement at the Manoa Innovation Center. Hawaii's nascent technology ecosystem needs to continue on its current path and minimize the disruptions that will arise if HTDC and their MIC tenants are forced to seek new office space. I therefore support the extension of the lease arrangement between HTDC and the University of Hawaii.

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

Burt Lum

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: spencer.toyama@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB627 on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Monday, February 16, 2015 6:51:57 PM

SB627

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for HEA/EDT on Feb 17, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Spencer Toyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. If not for Manoa Innovation Center, I would not be able to start my business here in my home state of Hawai'i and would be forced to reside elsewhere. My business, Sudokrew Solutions, has created well-paying jobs, with close to 50% of our revenue coming from outside the state. None of this would be possible without the support of the Manoa Innovation Center.

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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