



Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology**  
**And**  
**Committee on Higher Education and the Arts**

Thursday, March 24, 2016  
1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
**SCR145 / SR107**  
**URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII  
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO COMMERCIALIZE INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY CREATED BY BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.**

Chairs Wakai and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committees.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** SCR145 /SR107 that urges UH to partner with HSDC and HTDC to commercialize intellectual property created at the University.

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 expanding Hawaii's tech and innovation sector. HTDC supports developing partnerships as an effective way to leverage resources to achieve common goals.

HTDC has successfully worked with the University of Hawaii on many initiatives including current partnerships with:

- UH Engineering and Computer Science departments – hosting a monthly networking event for software developers, students, and professors
- Maui College – planning and program for the Maui Food Innovation Center
- UH Hilo, DLIR, PISCES – conducting a feasibility study to create a multi-purpose manufacturing facility supporting the aerospace and astronomy industry in East Hawaii.
- XLR8UH program – promoting events and co-authored a grant application
- PACE – promoting and judging the UH Business Plan Competition

HTDC comments that UH is best suited to determine the specific needs of the University and respectfully defers to UH on the implementation of the resolution. HTDC looks forward to working with UH and HSDC. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment & Technology and  
Higher Education & the Arts  
March 24, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

by  
Vassilis L. Syrmos  
Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i

SCR 145/SR 107 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO COMMERCIALIZE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CREATED BY BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chairs Wakai and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Slom and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of SCR 145/SR 107 to assist with University-sponsored technology transfer activity and to support innovation in Hawai'i. However, UH is not in support of this particular measure.

In relation to more established centers of innovation on the mainland, the ecosystem for innovation and technology transfer in Hawai'i is still emerging and developing. As such, the ecosystem would benefit from a diversity of efforts and multiple initiatives -- including those being put forth at UH.

As the primary public institution generating academic research in the state, an important segment of UH's mission is the creation of knowledge and intellectual property. As with other universities nationally and internationally, UH's goal is to not only to actively pursue technology transfer, but to also develop and educate a new generation of researchers and students to become successful scientific and social innovators and entrepreneurs. Education, research, innovation and commercialization are all activities that are interwoven and cannot be dealt with separately in a vacuum.

Through the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, UH is already partnered with the Hawai'i Strategic Development Corporation, the High Technology Development Corporation and others in the Hawai'i innovation sector – including the local business community to help create a third economic engine and diversify the state's economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.



**HAWAII  
STRATEGIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

Written Statement of

**KARL FOOKS**

**President**

Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation

Before the

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY**

and the

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2016**

**1:15 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

In consideration of

**SCR145/SR107**

**URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO COMMERCIALIZE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CREATED BY BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.**

Chairs Wakai and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development, Environment and Technology and Higher Education:

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation strongly supports efforts by the University of Hawaii to develop the capacity to commercialize intellectual property created by research conducted at the university. HSDC recognizes that significant progress has been made by the university in recent years to create this capacity.

HSDC's HI Growth Initiative has supported the university's commercialization efforts. The HI Growth investment program has three areas of focus: entrepreneurial development, research commercialization and access to startup capital.

Over the years, HSDC has expended significant resources to encourage the commercialization of research at the university. The first investment fund established under the HI Growth Initiative is the UPSIDE Fund II, a \$6 million investment fund to invest specifically in the intellectual property developed from University of Hawaii research.

HSDC organized a seminar on best practices in research commercialization and invited leaders from successful Mainland commercialization programs to visit Hawaii and meet with the university community and policy makers.

Over the years, HSDC has applied, although without success, to Federal grant opportunities to help fund the establishment of a Proof of Concept Center, a successful model of research commercialization adopted by many universities.

HSDC's Connect and Network Program supports networking events to bring together entrepreneurs, investors and collaborators. One of the events that is supported is the Startup Paradise Demo Day, a startup showcase event held twice a year. University of Hawaii affiliated startups are included as participants in this showcase event. The CAN Program also supported a recent Hawaii Business Roundtable report, Hawaii Innovation Assets Report, that highlighted the university's potential to commercialize its research activities.

HSDC's mission is to mobilize private capital to invest in the growth sectors of Hawaii's economy. When HSDC has access to resources it places a high priority on supporting research commercialization. Unfortunately, HSDC's current resources are fully obligated and no new sources of funding have materialized over the past several years.

Without a consistent source of funding it is very difficult for HSDC to engage the university and private sector partners to pursue long-term investment programs that support important efforts like the commercialization of intellectual property created by research conducted at the university.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

**wakai1 - Lilinoe**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 2:39 PM  
**To:** EET Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR145 on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM\*

**SCR145**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for EET/HEA on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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