



High Technology Development Corporation  
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**LATE**

Written Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Higher Education  
and  
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology**  
Friday, March 17, 2017  
1:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of  
**HB847 HD1  
RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH.**

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education and Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB847 HD1 that establishes the Innovation and Commercialization Initiative Program to expressly give the University of Hawaii the legal authority to create, promote, and participate in new economic enterprises and expand workforce opportunities based on inventions and discoveries generated by or 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 aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs. HB847 allows UH to engage in economic promotion activities that will support university technology transfer and workforce development through programs like XLR8UH.

The XLR8UH Proof of Concept Commercialization Center was funded by UH to accelerate early stage innovation and talent affiliated with the University of Hawaii. 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 help nurture the efforts of regionally developed intellectual property, entrepreneurs, and startups affiliated with the university. We look forward to continued partnerships with the XLR8UH program.

HTDC is also partnered with the University of Hawaii Engineering and Computer Science departments in facilitating stronger connections between industry, students, and professors through HTDC's WetWare Wednesday networking event. The monthly event has been bringing together stakeholders in the tech community for the past 5 years.

HTDC defers to UH on the implementation of the bill. We respectfully request correction of the defective effective date. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.