



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development,
Tourism and Technology
Friday, February 9, 2018 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

LATE

**RE: SENATE BILL 2904 RELATING TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2904, which appropriates funds to the High Technology Development Corporation for the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ 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 High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) has offered assistance to SBIR awarded companies since 1989; as a result, Hawaii companies have attracted 20 federal dollars in return to the state plus commercialization funding for every dollar invested through this program. Although the federal SBIR grant program has increased efforts to move companies through grant awards to commercial product sales, funds have not been dedicated towards these efforts. This bill would allow HTDC to continue to provide the necessary support of a commercialization assistance program to all phases in the program.

We believe that this program is one of the key state components in diversifying Hawaii's economy and the continued development of an innovation economy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

HAWAII BIOTECH

Statement of
D. Elliot Parks, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Hawaii Biotech Inc.

before the
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
Friday, February 9, 2018
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
SB2904
RELATING TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, and Technology.

Hawaii Biotech Inc. **supports** SB2904 that makes an appropriation for the continuation of the small company innovation grant program within the High Technology Development Corporation.

Hawaii Biotech is the oldest and largest biotech company in the State of Hawaii, founded by four UH professors in 1982. Our company is a World's leader in developing safe and effective vaccines to protect against emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. As many of these diseases derive from tropical regions of the World, our Hawaii company has a significant competitive advantage. Another competitive advantage that Hawaii Biotech has is the fact that we do not use infectious viruses in the formulation of our protective vaccines. Additionally, we lead the World in developing small molecule drugs to combat bioterrorism threats like Anthrax and Botulinum toxins.

We applaud the Hawaii State Legislature for its leadership through the long-standing small business innovation research matching grant program and urge the Legislature to continue this program as articulated in SB 2904. Funds from this HTDC matching grant program have allowed Hawaii Biotech to attract more than \$60 million in Federal grants and contracts to the State of Hawaii, to our local company, to maintain our current workforce, and to recruit new employees to expand our workforce.

We believe HTDC has been a prudent and judicious steward of the State funds that have been awarded to the innovation technology matching grant program in past years. Therefore, we would hope that the Senate sees fit to continue this matching program and provide flexibility to HTDC to include phase three grants.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.