



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Acting Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Friday, February 1, 2019
10:10 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB338
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) submits **comments** on HB338 that makes an appropriation into and out of the research and development special fund for the research and development program of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

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 promoting technology and innovation jobs. Last session \$1,000,000 was appropriated for the program. HTDC has completed the required public hearing on the proposed administrative rules for the program. HTDC intends to open the application period and make FY19 awards before the end of the fiscal year. HTDC comments that HB623 repeals this program so the bills should be coordinated.

We support this request provided it does not supplant the Governor's priorities in the Administrative budget. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

HB-338

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:46:26 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William W. Steiner	Pacific Agricultural Land Management Systems	Support	No

Comments:

Pacific Agricultural Land Management Systems (PALMS) and Hawaii Oil Seed Producers (HOSPRO), two Big Island companies developing oil palm as a new vegetable oil source for biofuel, edible oil, animal feed, cosmetics, plastics and other products support this bill as it will provide funding for the development of products that are imported to be manufactured in Hawaii increasing Hawaiian jobs, economic independence and sustainability for the future.



Statement of
Hermann Kugeler
Business Development Manager
Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc.

before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Friday, February 1, 2019

10:10am

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of

HB338

RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee

Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB338** that establishes the research and development program in the Hawaii technology development corporation.

Makai is a locally-owned and operated technology company based in Hawai'i for over 45 years. We are currently performing R&D on a variety of exciting ocean technology projects, including autonomous underwater vehicles, ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) and seawater air conditioning (SWAC) systems, submarine and subsea cable systems, and a Department of Energy project to grow and harvest macroalgae offshore in Hawaiian waters to produce a renewable biofuel alternative for transportation.

Makai has been successful in bringing in tens of millions of dollars in R&D funds from federal and international sponsors to Hawai'i, helping to stem the tide of "brain drain" of talented kama'aina kids going to the mainland. Makai is not unique among Hawaii technology companies in this. There is a tech community here that has made a strong economic impact in terms of high paying jobs, and demonstrated success in commercializing federal R&D, which has increased taxable revenue for the state, and brought home kama'aina scientists and engineers.

This bill would enhance the ability of Hawaii companies like Makai to outshine mainland peers in competitive federal R&D projects, bring home R&D dollars that greatly exceed the initial investment, and create a critical mass and a truly vibrant industry of innovative R&D companies in Hawaii. It would expand and diversify Hawaii's economy, and enable our tech industry to support high-paying, highly-skilled professional jobs for our keiki here at home.

This is why Makai **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB338**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-338

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:30:57 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Chung	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB338 relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation which makes an appropriation into and out of the research and development special fund for the research and development program of HTDC. This is an existing program that was funded last session as Act 141 and I urge you to continue funding this very important program. There are many companies doing critical research and development in Hawaii and it is vital to Hawaii's future economic growth. The innovations that these companies are researching and developing bring in new dollars to our State's economy and create strong high-skilled, high-paying jobs - jobs for our kama'aina and to bring skilled kama'aina back home. We urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

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**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Friday, February 1, 2019 at 10:10 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 338 RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitigawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 338, which makes an appropriation into and out of the research and development special fund for the research and development program of the Hawaii technology development corporation.

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 Chamber continues to support the State's efforts to promote and foster innovation research and development in Hawaii. Innovation is a proven catalyst for economic growth and the creation of high-skilled and high-paying jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.