



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Acting Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Energy Economic Development and Tourism

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Videoconference

In consideration of
GM620
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, VINCENT KIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to **support** the confirmation of Mr. Vincent Kimura to the board of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

I have had the privilege of working with Vince in his role as CEO of SmartYields and previously Innovi. Vince brings to HTDC a working knowledge of the tech industry in Hawai'i. Vince has extensive experience raising venture capital, developing new products, and commercializing new technology. His insights into the needs of local startups will be a valuable asset for HTDC. I look forward to having his leadership on the board in the years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote on his behalf.

GM-620

Submitted on: 3/7/2022 10:53:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/9/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isar Mostafanezhad	Testifying for Nalu Scientific, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Kimura is an excellent candidate for this position. He understands the dynamics of running an innovative business in the state and understands the challenges. He will be an asset to the community when serving on the board of HTDC. Mahalo.

GM-620

Submitted on: 3/8/2022 9:08:27 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/9/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Datta	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Thank you for considering Vincent Kimura in this role. I strongly support his nomination to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation. I have enjoyed Vincent's presence and expertise as we continue to serve the executive committee of the state board of directors of the Hawaii Farmers Union United. I have found Vincent to be easy to collaborate with and that his insight often brings a fresh perspective which augments our discussions regarding Hawaii's food system. Vincent is familiar with many tech solutions which he readily suggests as effective means to problem solving and facilitating our purpose. He is personable and innovative with a can-do character who inspires others. Mahalo.

RYAN KAWAILANI OZAWA

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March 8, 2022

Aloha, Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair; Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

I am writing to express my **support** of GM620, which submits Vincent Kimura for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

I have known Vincent for nearly 30 years. We are friends, and have been coworkers, collaborators, and cofounders across countless projects. He has been repeatedly recognized for his leadership and expertise in Hawaii's innovation sector.

Having preceded me as CEO of ag-tech startup Smart Yields, Vincent has most recently assumed a full-time role at the University of Hawaii, serving as Innovation & Technology Development Program Manager with the Office of Innovation & Commercialization. There are few positions as relevant as his in terms of growing Hawaii's tech sector and diversifying Hawaii's economy, especially given the important role UH should be playing in the broader ecosystem.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Ryan Kawailani Ozawa

GM-620

Submitted on: 3/8/2022 1:13:22 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/9/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anabella Bruch	Testifying for HFUF	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this appointment

GM-620

Submitted on: 3/8/2022 3:40:51 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/9/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Zuber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill wholeheartedly.

GM-620

Submitted on: 3/8/2022 10:11:31 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/9/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reba Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I would like to give my full support of this appointment for Vincent Kimura. In the past 4 years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with him on a variety of projects through the Hawaii Farmers Union United. Together, we have built Annual Conventions and Strategic Planning Weekends. We have executed multiple grants together and applied for many more. Vincent Kimura is a joy to work with and an asset to any organization. His attention to detail is coupled with his ability to see the bigger picture and pragmatically achieve goals.

GM-620

Submitted on: 3/8/2022 12:00:09 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/9/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Kiyomura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vincent Kimura is a trustworthy professional with a deep commitment to developing Hawaii's tech community towards a sustainable future. Mr. Kimura's previous work with SmartYields demonstrate's his commitment through the intersection of technology and Hawaii's agriculture industry. Mr. Kimura has always been a champion of supporting Hawaii's own entrepreneurs and technology and wholeheartedly believes in a sustainable future for our State. I highly support the nomination for Vincent Kimura to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.