



Written Statement of  
**Len Higashi**  
 Executive Director  
 Hawaii Technology Development Corporation  
 before the  
**House Committee On Finance**  
 Monday, February 27, 2023  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB395, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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

The Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB395, HD1 that appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation for the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

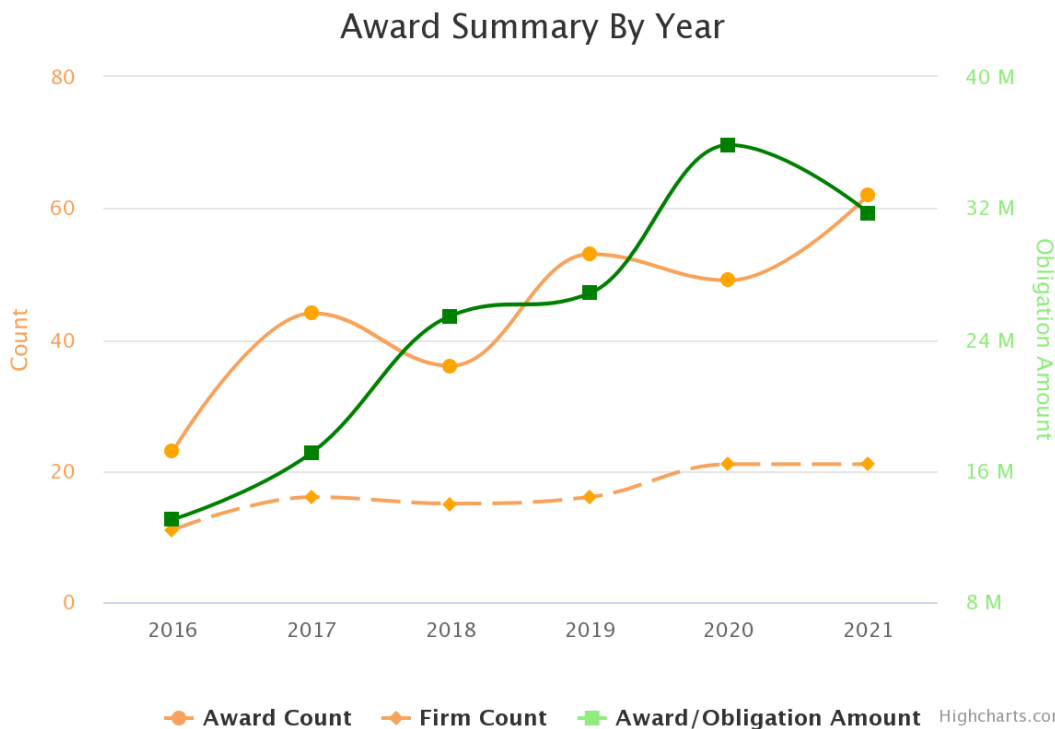
HTDC supports initiatives aimed at growing tech and innovation jobs. The federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program is known as America's seed fund awarding over \$4 billion a year to domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) with the potential for commercialization. The HSBIR program provides matching grants and wrap-around support services to small businesses in Hawai'i who are able to secure these funds and conduct their activities within the State. The companies provide high-wage engineering and science jobs in the State. The goals of the program are to increase the number of participating companies, increase the federal funds awarded, and increase the number of jobs in the State.

HTDC has been providing Phase I matching grants to SBIR awarded companies since 1989 and started awarding Phase II and Phase III matching grants in FY16. A summary of the Phase II/III awards made by the matching grant program is listed below:

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21/22	FY22
Appropriation	\$2 MM	\$2 MM	\$1 MM	\$1.5 MM	\$1 MM	-	\$1.5 MM
# of Applications	11	9	9	12	16	-	17
# of Awards	7	8	5	6	14	-	TBD
\$\$ Awarded	\$2 MM	\$1.9 MM	\$900 K	\$1.4 MM	\$900 K	-	TBD
Federal SBIR \$\$ (match)	\$7.9 MM	\$10.9 MM	\$8.0 MM	\$11 MM	\$53 MM	-	\$20 MM
Estimated New Jobs	17	70	15	135	509	-	TBD

**Impact:**

A chart of the federal SBIR awarded to Hawai'i companies follows.



data from [sbir.gov/awards](https://sbir.gov/awards)

The federal research dollars awarded to Hawai'i small businesses has been increasing. Hawai'i small businesses are securing funds that would otherwise be awarded to companies in other states because the federal SBIR program has a fixed budget each year and a highly competitive application process. Every year, there have been more qualified applicants for matching HSBIR grants than available funds. Since the Phase II/III program started in FY16, none of the applicants have received the full eligible amount. Over time, the program is anticipated to generate the same type of metrics of success as the Phase I matching program. For every dollar invested through the Hawai'i SBIR program, Hawai'i companies have attracted over 20 federal dollars in return to the State, plus commercialization funding.

HTDC is working with the University of Hawai'i Office of Innovation and Commercialization to continue growing the pipeline of companies pursuing SBIR funds and with several DoD and DoD related groups on developing further commercialization opportunities for Hawai'i companies developing new technologies. HTDC is also working with the Department of Defense on strategies to accelerate the transition of the Hawaii SBIR technologies into solutions for the government. The program provides great leverage for the state. HTDC respectfully requests correction of the defective effective date. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**HB-395-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 8:49:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Russell Seeney	Pacific Business Services, Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Statement of**

**Russell Seeney**

**President**

**Pacific Business Services, Inc**

**before the**

**House Committee on Finance**

**Monday, February 27, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of**

**HB395 HD1**

**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance.**

**Pacific Business Services, Inc supports HB395 HD1 that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation for the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) Program to fund the matching grant for SBIR Phase II and Phase III awards to assist companies in getting their product to market. For every dollar invested through the Hawaii SBIR program, Hawaii companies have attracted over 20 federal dollars in return to the State, plus commercialization funding.**

**Pacific Business Services, Inc is a 38 year old Hawaii based technology company and have leveraged the use of HTDC training, funding information, teaming information with other potential business partners.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.**



4009 Black Point Rd, Honolulu, HI 96816

Statement of  
**Rex Jakobovits, PhD**  
**President,**  
**Experiad Solutions**  
before the  
**House Committee on Finance**

Monday, February 27, 2023  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB395 HD1**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Experiad **supports** HB395 that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation for the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) Program to fund the matching grant for SBIR Phase II and Phase III awards to assist companies in getting their product to market. As a small business owner, I have experienced firsthand the impact that these grants can have on the local economy. By providing state funds to match Small Business Innovative Research grants, we are investing in the growth and development of small businesses in our state. This not only benefits the business owners, but also the employees and local community.

As you know, small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, providing jobs and driving innovation. By providing these businesses with access to additional funding, we are supporting their ability to grow and expand, leading to increased economic activity and job creation. Furthermore, SBIR grants provide valuable opportunities for small businesses to bring their innovative ideas to market, which can have a positive impact on the local economy by attracting new businesses and industries to our state.

Our story is direct proof that the HTDC SBIR program is critical to attracting high tech startups to Hawaii, and it has brought millions of additional federal dollars to our local economy. My software startup Experiad has received matching funds for our Phase I and Phase II SBIRs, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop software for behavioral therapists who **treat kids with autism**. The funds distributed by HTDC have been critical to our success, allowing us to conduct an extensive field test of our prototype product in the homes of kids with autism. The data we gathered allowed us to win a new fast-track NIH grant



4009 Black Point Rd, Honolulu, HI 96816

proposal last year. We could not have done it without the research funded by the Hawaii matching grant. Thus, **the Hawaii SBIR matching grant was directly responsible for us being awarded \$3.6M in additional federal dollars.** That money is feeding the local high tech economy, and acting as critical seed capital that will generate dozens of high tech jobs in Hawaii if we succeed.

Furthermore, HTDC has served as a critical conduit for bringing Hawaii tech entrepreneurs together, leading to collaboration and team-building that propelled our success. We met our VP of Clinical Product, Emaley McCulloch, when she was building a business within HTDC's manoa site in 2015, and without her, we would not be where we are today. HTDC is a vital hub for Hawaii's technology entrepreneurship, and we are an example of that.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Senate Committee to consider appropriating state funds to match Small Business Innovative Research grants. This investment in our small businesses will pay dividends for our local economy, creating jobs and driving economic growth. HTDC is exactly the type of investment that our economy needs right now.

Mahalo for listening!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Jakobovits", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rex Jakobovits, PhD  
President, Experiad Solutions



PO Box 1095  
Kurtistown, Hawaii  
+1-808-938-2840  
jim.wyban@gmail.com

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February 25, 2023

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RE: **HB395** THAT APPROPRIATES FUNDS TO CONTINUE SBIR PROGRAM

Dear Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support of **HB395** that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to continue the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) program.

I developed the World's first SPF shrimp broodstock company, High Health Aquaculture (HHA) based at NELHA in Kona. HHA was the beginning of what became a new industry in Hawaii – SPF Shrimp Broodstock, which exports more than \$30 M of product per year.

During my tenure at HHA, we received 9 SBIR grants from various federal agencies (NSF, USDA, DOC). For each of these we also received Hawaii SBIR matching grants. All of these greatly contributed to our IP development, which increased our company's value and success. This is a very valuable initiative that I strongly support.

After 20 years in business we sold HHA to an Asian multinational (SIS), which expanded the business and continues today.

I strongly support the Hawaii SBIR program and urge you to fund it.

Thanks,

Jim Wyban PhD  
President



Written Statement of  
**DR. PATRICK K. SULLIVAN**  
**PRESIDENT/CEO OCEANIT**

Before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Wednesday, February 27, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

Offers Comments to  
**HB395 RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice  
Chair, and Members of the Committee

From: Dr. Patrick K. Sullivan, President/CEO

Re: Comments relating to HB395

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

Testimony in Support for HB395

The technology industry in Hawaii has grown over the past 20 years and has made significant strides towards achieving the goal of diversifying and stimulating Hawaii's economy. The continuation of the Small Business Innovation Research ("SBIR") grants is crucial to move the technology towards prototyping, customer interface, and commercialization.

The objectives of the SBIR grants are:

- To support economic growth and the diversification of our economy;
- To launch new ventures based on technology innovations; and
- To support the growth of the tech industry and the creation of intellectual property and innovation in the State.

When the SBIR matching program started a few decades ago, Hawaii was ranked close to the bottom in the US. After this program, Hawaii's success ranking improved to 30<sup>th</sup> out of 50 States. Accordingly, there is a direct correlation between the State's SBIR Matching Grant Program and improving Hawaii's position in receiving federal SBIR funds. Adding more funds is expected to further improve Hawaii's position and contribute significant research capital into the State of Hawaii, providing a positive ROI, plus supporting the diversification of Hawaii's economy.

Therefore, Oceanit requests to increase the grant to \$5M.



Statement of  
**Nelson Kanemoto**  
**President & CEO**  
**Referentia Systems**  
before the  
**House Committee on Finance**

Monday, February 27, 2023  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB395 HD1**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Referentia Systems **supports** HB395 HD1 that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) for the **Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR)** Program to fund the matching grant for SBIR Phase II and Phase III awards, which assists companies in getting their product to market. For every dollar invested through the HSBIR program, Hawaii companies have attracted over 20 federal dollars in return to the State, plus commercialization funding.

Referentia Systems is a technology company with headquarters in Honolulu, Hawaii. Referentia Systems has received great support from HTDC including the HSBIR program. Over the past 15 years, HTDC's HSBIR grant funding has supported and enabled Referentia to develop proprietary technologies that are being commercialized within the State and on the U.S. mainland through a technology spin-off process.

The support and augmented funding from HTDC for HSBIR has helped our local small business to compete through marketing, the commercialization of HSBIR technologies and has positioned Referentia to secure large HSBIR Phase III contracts including a \$30M Air Force project that we are performing for our 4<sup>th</sup> year and has been expanding.

We greatly appreciate all the work the HTDC team has been doing for the State of Hawaii, and the growth of our Tech economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Testimony Presented to  
House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 27, 2023 10:00am VIA VIDEOCONGERENCE Conference Room 308  
by  
*Ron Weidenbach, Co-owner/President, Hawaii Fish Company Inc., Waiialua, HI*

SUBJECT: Strong support for HB 395 HD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Aloha Rep. Yamashita, Chair, Rep. Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Fish Company Inc. (HFC), established in 1978, is Hawaii’s oldest commercial fish farm and a federal SBIR awardee and Hawaii SBIR matching grant awardee since 1993. In 2000, HFC was awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Tibbitts Award as a national model of excellence for the SBIR program, and a place in the SBIR Hall of Fame, Washington DC. Our continuing SBIR success, with thirteen awards to date, has been made possible by the supplemental research support received from the Hawaii SBIR matching grant program.

HFC therefore strongly supports HB 395 HD1 which appropriates funds for fiscal year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the HTDC’s Hawaii SBIR Matching Grant Program. This valuable program supports matching grants of up to 50% of the Federal SBIR Phase II/III awards to a maximum of \$500,000, enabling awardees to cover important research, development, intellectual property (IP) protection, and pre-commercialization expenses that are not covered by the federal awards, placing Hawaii companies in a favorable competitive position nationally.

This very successful program was the first of its kind in the nation and has since been widely copied and expanded upon by other States seeking to attract innovative technology companies and economic development to their respective States. The return on investment to the State of Hawaii in terms of small business start-ups, expansion, diversification, job creation, and economic impact has been impressive, with aquaculture and agriculture companies being an active component of this State success. This program is critical to the continued efforts to diversity Hawaii’s economy and to the continued commercialization success and growth of HFC. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 395 HD1.

Respectfully,

Ronald P. Weidenbach

**Sustainability. Innovation. Quality.**

P.O. Box 740 | Waiialua, HI 96791 USA | [info@hawaiifishcompany.com](mailto:info@hawaiifishcompany.com) | [hawaiifishcompany.com](http://hawaiifishcompany.com)



Statement of  
**Isar Mostafanezhad, Ph.D.**  
Founder and CEO, Nalu Scientific, LLC  
before the  
**House Committee on Finance**

Monday, February 27, 2023  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB395 HD1**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Nalu Scientific, LLC **supports** HB395 HD1 that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation for the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) Program to fund the matching grant for SBIR Phase II and Phase III awards to assist companies in getting their product to market. For every dollar invested through the Hawaii SBIR program, Hawaii companies have attracted over 20 federal dollars in return to the State, plus commercialization funding.

I founded Nalu Scientific in 2016. Nalu Scientific has participated in, and benefitted from, several SBIR funding opportunities. We have earned multiple large-scale federal grants totalling more than \$10 million.

Our company employs many UH graduates and former Hawaii residents who were able to return home to the islands and apply their specialized skills as we design and build high-end sensors and systems. The HTDC matching grant program has been a key reason why we have been able to provide these opportunities and to support Hawaii's innovation community.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 27, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 395, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 395, HD1**, which appropriates funds to the High Technology Development Corporation for the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

A major impediment to agriculture in Hawaii is the lack of technology. Many of our agribusinesses continue to operate as they did during their parents' generation despite advancements in technology. A good example is Food Safety for farmers. The majority of Hawaii's farms are small and have difficulty with the requirements and costs associated with food safety requirements. Food Safety requires recordkeeping and traceability. Due to the size of our farms, traceability recordkeeping is a major issue. We know RFID technology is advanced and used in all places. For example, when you return your car rental, the agent scans the barcode to get your data. It seems these technologies could be adapted to our farms. We need entrepreneurs such as those in the SBIR program to help us address these issues.

Continued funding, with possible targets for agriculture, will be of great assistance to the industry. Agriculture technology includes sophisticated technologies such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and GPS technology. These advanced devices and precision agriculture and robotic systems allow agribusinesses to be more profitable, efficient, safer, and more environmentally friendly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support on this measure and for your continued support of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 27, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 395 HD1 Relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly supports** HB 395, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) for the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR).

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 Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) is a highly competitive federal program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in federal research and development that has the potential for commercialization. Through the Hawaii SBIR Program, Hawaii-based companies receive matching funds that can help them to enhance their project development, compete for more lucrative awards and ultimately reach successful commercialization.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation has provided assistance to SBIR awarded companies since 1988; as a result, Hawaii companies have attracted federal dollars in return to the state plus commercialization funding for every state dollar invested through this program. The federal SBIR grant program has continued its efforts to move companies through grant awards to commercial product sales, and this bill would allow the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to continue to provide the necessary support of a commercialization assistance program to all phases in the program for local businesses here in Hawaii.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii believes an increase in funding would spur more economic growth for our small businesses and continue the advancement of technology and innovation through an increase in research and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-395-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zeb Jones	Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of HB395, HD1 which supports the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation Small Business Innovation Research Program with an Appropriation. Programs like these need continued funding to support Hawai`i's small businesses in an effort to avoid continued over-relying on tourism to support our economy. However, pushing back the effective date to 1 July 3000 in the interest of further discussion just delays this process that much more. For this reason, I urge your committee to please advance the effective date to no later than July 1, 2024 or 2025 to provide much-needed funding for the Small Business Innovation Research Program in the interest of supporting more Hawai`i businesses.

For these above reasons, we urge your Committee to please pass HB395, HD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB395, HD1

Zeb Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC

PO Box 1472/ Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: [zebbe3442@gmail.com](mailto:zebbe3442@gmail.com)



Statement of  
**Hermann Kugeler**  
**Vice President of Business Development**  
**Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc.**  
before the  
**House Committee on Finance**  
Monday, February 27, 2023  
10:00 am  
Videoconference  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
In consideration of  
**HB395**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

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

Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc. **SUPPORTS HB395** that makes an appropriation to HTDC to continue providing grants to businesses through the small business innovation research program.

Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc. is a locally-owned and operated technology company based in Hawaii for 50 years and an active participant in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant program. The SBIR program consists of three phases that encourages early stage investment and innovation in technology. Phase 1 provides a very small amount of money that is barely enough for proof of concept research. However, it is the Phase 2 and 3 funding stages that really provide a means of development for companies to transition the idea and research conducted in Phase I, to prototyping to commercialization.

According to HTDC, for every dollar invested through this program, Hawaii companies have attracted nearly 15 federal dollars in return to the state, plus commercialization funding. The Hawaii SBIR program supports projects with vetted technology backed with federal funds. The state matching funds are critical in advancing development, which helps win later phase awards and assists in getting the technology out into the market. The SBIR matching grants assist companies that have a commercially-promising project that has a difficult development plan. Carefully selected matching grants represent more of a “sure bet” in terms of a successful and highly leveraged investment in economic development for the State, and growing our tech sector.

For example, Makai’s subsea cable laying software began as a Phase 1 SBIR (matched by State for \$20k in the year 2000) and then went on to Phase 2 and 3 and became the world’s #1 commercial cable laying software, with over \$35 million in commercial revenues and high tech jobs for Hawaii over the last 20+ years. This is a direct multiplier of more than 1,750X for the State’s investment, not counting the indirect benefits of retaining some of the world’s best engineers in Hawaii and the additional technologies they have generated during this time.

Makai is currently working on a Phase 2 SBIR program focused on development of a temperature sensing tow cable. Makai was also recently awarded a Phase III for this program. In 2018 HTDC awarded Makai an HSBIR Phase I grant for this program, that we believe was a key



reason we were selected for the Phase II and III awards. This program alone, has already resulted in a direct multiplier of more than 120X the State's investment, in federal funds. This is expected to grow as the technology transitions to the Navy fleet and commercial markets in the coming years.

In addition, Makai and Referentia were two local companies honored with a national award, the SBIR Tibbetts Award at the Whitehouse in January, 2017. This award recognizes the very best SBIR companies in the country whose technologies have made a strong economic impact in terms of high paying jobs, and displaying success in **actually commercializing federal R&D**. We need this HTDC administered program to make possible more national success stories by local companies.

This is why we **SUPPORT HB395**, which would provide the state matching funds for federal SBIR programs to enable companies to commercialize new technologies more effectively. Not only would this expansion of funding enable our tech industry to compete and win more Federal monies for technology development, it would provide highly-skilled professional jobs for our keiki here at home.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



**HB-395-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:18:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chenoa Farnsworth	Blue Startups	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance.**

**Blue Startups supports HB395 HD1 that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation for the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) Program to fund the matching grant for SBIR Phase II and Phase III awards to assist companies in getting their product to market. For every dollar invested through the Hawaii SBIR program, Hawaii companies have attracted over 20 federal dollars in return to the State, plus commercialization funding.**

# TJ Leonard

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Testimony on HB395

Relating to the appropriation of funds for the Small Business Innovation Research program under the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

I strongly support this bill.

In my consulting practice, I specialize in Economic Development, primarily in the areas of support for growing companies in the technology sector. I have first hand experience of the value of this program. Innovation is the life blood of growth, particularly in the technology sectors. I have seen a number of companies benefit from the Hawaii SBIR funding program to bring new and innovative ideas successfully to the market. To many, this program meant the difference between success and failure.

Sincerely,

*Tom Leonard*

**HB-395-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 6:10:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Imai-Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB395 HD1 that appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation for the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) Program to fund the matching grant for SBIR Phase II and Phase III awards to assist companies in getting their product to market. For every dollar invested through the Hawaii SBIR program, Hawaii companies have attracted over 20 federal dollars in return to the State, plus commercialization funding.

**HB-395-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 9:26:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of HB395, HD1 which supports the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation Small Business Innovation Research Program with an Appropriation. Programs like these need continued funding to support Hawai`i's small businesses in an effort to avoid continued over-relying on tourism to support our economy. However, pushing back the effective date to 1 July 3000 in the interest of further discussion just delays this process that much more. For this reason, I urge your committee to please advance the effective date to no later than July 1, 2024 or 2025 to provide much-needed funding for the Small Business Innovation Research Program in the interest of supporting more Hawai`i businesses.

For these above reasons, we urge your Committee to please pass HB395, HD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB395, HD1

Nancy A. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: [nancyhydroalt@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhydroalt@gmail.com)