



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee On Energy, Economic Development, And Tourism
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SB573, SD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) offers **comments** on SB573, SD1 that removes the representative from the University of Hawai'i from the board of directors of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation and prohibits the University of Hawai'i representative from serving on the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation's board of directors as an at-large member

HTDC has appreciated and benefited greatly from having the University of Hawai'i represented on its board. It has encouraged greater collaboration and strategic alignment. New programs out of the UH Office of Innovation and Commercialization and the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship are now feeding the pipeline of new companies into HTDC Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and accelerator programs. HTDC also works with the UH College of Engineering and Community Colleges on workforce development initiatives and job fairs. HTDC's preference is to keep UH on its board. HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

by

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

SB 573 SD1 – RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) respectfully offers comments on SB 573 SD1 that seeks to remove the UH representative from the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) board of directors and additionally seeks to prohibits the official from serving as an at-large board member.

Since HTDC's inception in 1983, UH and HTDC have forged a symbiotic relationship to help cultivate innovation, entrepreneurship and workforce development initiatives and programs with one common goal – to diversify, stimulate and grow the state's economy. Allowing UH, the largest science and technology organization in Hawai'i, to remain on the HTDC board of directors will enable this vital partnership to continue for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 12:00:13 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/28/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This makes no sense at all. Why would the University be barred from a board dealing with technology development??