



Written Statement of
Sandi Kanemori
Interim Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM539
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Gregory Uehara, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

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

I am pleased to have this opportunity to **support** the confirmation of Mr. Gregory Uehara to the Board of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation.

HTDC highly supports Mr. Gregory Uehara as an addition to the HTDC Board for his extensive knowledge as engineer, and a R&D research consultant supporting small to medium size R&D research companies. His deep knowledge as an engineering technologist will help lead discussion with Board in making informed decisions and developing technology and innovation growth initiatives. His commitment to fostering innovation and supporting small to medium size business aligns perfectly with HTDC's mission to foster technology and innovation.

We look forward to working with Mr. Uehara in the years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote on his behalf.



Testimony of Craig Nakanishi
Chair
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

THE HONORABLE LYNN DECOITE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR

Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Governor's Message 539

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation,
Gubernatorial Nominee, GREGORY UEHARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

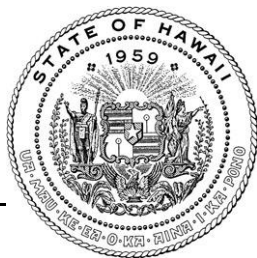
I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Gregory Uehara to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation ("HTDC").

Mr. Uehara has been a very valuable member of HTDC's Board during his interim appointment providing insightful comments and much needed knowledge that will assist HTDC far into the future as we forge ahead to diversify our State economy through further development of our commercial technology industry that is critical to generate high paying jobs and provide opportunities for residents to live and stay here.

Mr. Uehara's educational, academic, and professional experience will provide a much needed innovation viewpoint to HTDC, as evidenced by his many patents and contributions through technical papers. He also has been working on a startup company and understands firsthand, the challenges of entrepreneurship. Startups in general, and especially in Hawai'i, need various types of support and guidance and Mr. Uehara will be a valuable resource to enable HTDC to address the current and future challenges in furthering Hawaii's technology development, growth, and ascension.

I respectfully request your support in confirming Mr. Uehara to the Board of Directors of HTDC.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Governor's Message 539.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM 539
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee,
GREGORY UEHARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

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

I support the confirmation of Mr. Gregory Uehara to the Board of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Mr. Uehara has more than 30 years of experience in patents, high volume manufacturing, product development, future workforce development and mentorship. He has served as Entrepreneur-In-Residence at Austin Ventures and held various teaching and consulting positions and recently received an Adjunct Professor appointment in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Hawai'i.

Mr. Uehara has received a number of awards, including the prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation and has published 25 papers in journals and conference proceedings. With his experience and background, he is poised to be a great addition to the HTDC Board and have a positive impact on the organization.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my support.

February 24, 2025

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Senators on the Committee:

I have known Dr. Greg Uehara for nearly 50 years, having met him during our sophomore year at James B. Castle High School in Kaneohe, Hawaii. I will share my knowledge and observations of his zeal for excellence, intelligence, compassion for humanity, and sincere commitment to the people of Hawaii.

I remember Greg as being intuitively a bright (genius) but humble individual who always made time to ask how his fellow students were doing and if we needed help. It was not a surprise to many of us when he went on to become our Class President in our junior and senior years. Greg excelled academically and after graduating from Castle High School in 1978, he attended college at the University of Washington and graduate school at UC Berkeley. I reconnected with him in 1993 while I was attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) School of Social Work graduate program and learned that he was a professor at the UHM College of Engineering.

Over the past 30 years, I have kept in touch with Greg through our class reunions. During that time, he has shared his passion for technological innovation coupled with his strong desire to create medically assistive devices that would improve the quality of life for individuals with physical challenges. Throughout our interactions, Greg consistently exemplifies selfless service to others. He possesses a wealth of knowledge and expertise with a willingness to mentor future engineers and collaborate with key stakeholders to achieve goals.

Dr. Uehara is passionate about keeping "local" talent here at home in Hawaii and to someday create opportunities for our future generations to stay or return home after studies.

Greg is highly respected by our classmates for his willingness to help anyone at any time.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jamie Detwiler, LSW, MSW
(Retired) Special Assistant for Healthcare Resolutions
U.S. Army Medical Command
Tripler Army Medical Center
Office of the Commander

Written Statement of
Wayne A. Shiroma
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Video Conference
In Support of the Nomination of
GREGORY UEHARA
As Board Member of the
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
(GM539)

To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Committee

From: Wayne A. Shiroma

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 539**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Gregory Uehara to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Diversifying our State economy through further development of our commercial technology industry is critical to generate high paying jobs and provide opportunities for residents who have been trained in technology to live and stay here. HTDC serves an important role in nurturing Hawai'i's technology sector.

Greg Uehara has very relevant educational, academic, and professional experience to bring high value to serve on the Board of HTDC. He also has contributed to many technology innovations as measured by his patents and contributions through technical papers. He been working on a startup company and understands firsthand many of the challenges of technical entrepreneurship. Many of the startups in Hawai'i need various types of support and guidance and Greg will be able to provide this when needed.

Greg has been sharing his start-up experience with our undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for several years now. He is currently serving as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

I sincerely request your support in confirming Greg the Board of Directors of HTDC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Shiroma
Professor and Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Focal Therapies

524 N. Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

310.405.4247 (o) 213.481.8555 (f)
www.laspineclinic.com
lkhoo@laspineclinic.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Dr. Gregory Uehara to serve as Member of the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). I fully realize the importance of the HTDC and its' crucial role in directing and diversifying Hawaii's economy by attracting and developing businesses, technologies and service lines.

I believe that Dr. Gregory Uehara is the perfect candidate to serve as a member of the HTDC. He has an extensive scientific, academic and business background that makes him the ideal candidate to serve on the guidance committee. He has a Masters and PhD in electrical engineering from Berkeley. He has worked extensively in the field of circuit design both in the academic and private sector.

His tenure with Austin ventures gives him particular experience and insight into the development of technical scientific start-up companies and incubating technology-based programs. As a founder of Alert Core, a medical technology small business dedicated to health fitness and spinal injury prevention, he also has a ground level perspective of the obstacles, needs and pathway to develop ventures here in Hawaii. He is a true mentor to both his students and his business partners and thus would be the perfect person to serve in this role on the HTDC committee.

I sincerely request your support in confirming Greg to the Board of HTDC.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry T. Khoo", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry T. Khoo, M.D.

Director of Spinal Surgery Technologies, Focal Therapies
Executive and Co-Fpunder, Society of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery (www.smiss.org)

February 27, 2025

Chair DeCoite, Co-Chair Wakai, and Honorable Members
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Hawai'i State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Governor's Message No. 539 appointing Gregory Uehara to the High Technology Development Corporation

Chair DeCoite, Co-Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee,

I would like to express my strong support for GM 539 relating to Dr. Gregory Uehara's consideration and confirmation to the High Technology Development Corporation.

I have known Dr. Uehara for over 30 years both personally and professionally in my varying capacities while working for the University of Hawaii, the State, the City and County of Honolulu, and while in the private sector. I have always known him to be of both high intelligence and integrity. He has done much to cultivate innovation and entrepreneurialism in Hawaii both as a professor in electrical engineering at UH and also in the private sector to help promote economic growth and diversification and supporting our youth as future leaders. He has always been a problem solver in coming up with the best answers to our most difficult problems.

I believe Greg is an exceptionally qualified nominee and would humbly ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination to this position.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B T M' followed by a horizontal line.

Brennon T. Morioka, PhD, PE

Written Statement of
Kymberly Sparlin
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Video Conference
In Support of the Nomination of
GREGORY UEHARA
As Board Member of the
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
(GM539)

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support** for the nomination of Gregory Uehara to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Diversifying our state's economy through further development and commercialization of our technology industry is critical to generating high paying jobs and providing opportunities for residents who have been trained to live and thrive here. I have had the honor of serving with Mr. Uehara on a grant review panel and am impressed with his critical thinking and commitment to support our local business innovators.

Mr. Uehara has decades of pertinent academic and professional experience that bring high value to the Board of HTDC. Through his work in startups, growth, and public companies in Silicon Valley, Chandler Arizona, Austin, Texas he has contributed to many technology innovations as measured by his nearly four dozen patents and contributions through several dozen technical papers. Furthermore, he understands firsthand many of the challenges of technical entrepreneurship through his direct involvement in building a startup company. Many of the startups in Hawai'i need various types of support and guidance and he will be able to provide credible insight when needed.

HTDC serves an important role in nurturing Hawai'i's technology sector and Mr. Uehara's experience and leadership will strengthen the organization and its effectiveness. I strongly encourage your support in confirming Mr. Uehara to the Board of Directors of HTDC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kymberly Sparlin



To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Committee
From: Isar Mostafanezhad, PhD
Re: Testimony in Support of GM 539
Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Gregory Uehara, Ph.D. to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

As an entrepreneur and CEO at Nalu Scientific, LLC and avid member of Hawaii's technology community, I'm deeply thankful for HTDC's efforts to diversify the Hawai'i economy through its direct support of small tech business. HTDC has been pivotal in helping companies like mine get started, create jobs and support local talent, increase funding for research and development, and achieve scalable commercial success.

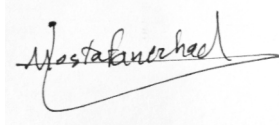
I feel confident that Dr. Gregory Uehara is an excellent choice to serve on HTDC's Board of Directors as he shares HTDC's vision of growing our local technology sector and developing and supporting talented engineers here in Hawai'i. It has been a pleasure for me to know Dr. Uehara in a professional capacity for several years. I have learned that he is not only a highly competent Berkeley-educated Electrical Engineering PhD but also an outspoken leader in our local technology community with tenure previously serving as Associate and Assistant Professor in Dept of Electrical Engineering at UH Mānoa. Being from Hawaii, Dr. Uehara has strong local roots and he has a world class education (UCB) and top work experience (academic and industry). He is clearly passionate about educating others and enjoys serving as a mentor not only for students and young professionals but also for myself and other tech entrepreneurs that he has worked with.

Dr. Uehara possesses a true entrepreneurial spirit and has spent many years developing his own patents and business ventures while also serving in supporting roles at startups, growth, and public companies in Silicon Valley and other mainland tech hubs. Through his experience, I believe that Dr. Uehara understands the needs and challenges of technical entrepreneurship and has a suitable background for supporting HTDC's initiatives. We are extremely fortunate that a person of his caliber is willing and able to serve his community in this capacity.

I sincerely request your support in confirming Gregory Uehara to the Board of Directors at HTDC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mostafanezhad', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Isar Mostafanezhad,
CEO
Nalu Scientific, LLC



Testimony before the Senate Committee
on Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Lynne DeCoite – Chair

Relating to the Nomination of
Greg Uehara for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation Board

February 27, 2025

Madame Chairperson and members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Sabas, and I am pleased to submit testimony in support of Greg Uehara to serve on the Board of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

I have known Greg Uehara since we were at Castle High School together many moons ago. For the record, he is older than me! For as long as I have known Greg, he is brilliant, thoughtful and a motivated driver. His stellar academic journey brought him back to Hawaii where he was a popular professor at the University of Hawaii College of Engineering. Greg continued his learning journey by working with startups and public companies in Silicon Valley, and then to Austin Ventures, the third largest VC firm in the US, serving as an Entrepreneur in Residence for a year before moving home to raise his family. He is a serial entrepreneur, standing up another startup called Alert Core which he hopes to take public this year.

When I learned about an opening on the HTDC board, I encouraged Greg to apply. Greg has lived the dream of an innovator, has lessons learned to share, and as a teacher/professor, he is committed to mentor and support the next gen entrepreneurs. His experiences are impressive, and run deep and wide.

I recommend Greg Uehara to serve on the Board of the High Technology Development Board fully and without reservation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Aloha,
Jennifer Sabas
Owner and President
Kaimana Hila