



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the

**Senate Committee on Media, Arts, Science and Technology
Senate Committee on Business and Economic Development
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Senate Committee on Higher Education**

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by

T. Samuel Shomaker, Interim Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 218 – REQUESTING THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, CANCER RESEARCH CENTER OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TO PLAN A TECHNOLOGY-BASED COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON STATE LANDS, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE LANDS, IN KAKA'AKO.

Chair Fukunaga, Chair Espero, Chair Kokubun, Chair Hee, and Committee members:

The University of Hawai'i supports this proposal to develop a strategy for a technology-based consortium supporting K-12 education, medical research and development, and a high-tech incubator and innovation center in Kaka'ako.

The establishment of the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Kaka'ako and future development of an adjacent Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i represent the public's investment in life sciences research and education. The Kamehameha Schools' proposed life sciences facility will provide a tremendous opportunity for public-private partnerships to maximize the growth of biotechnology-based industries.

It's crucial that we train a workforce in Hawai'i that is capable of fully capitalizing on the employment and investment opportunities presented by emerging biotech industries. Without a well-trained, home-grown workforce, biotech cannot grow and develop here in our state. A K-12 educational center based in Kaka'ako could become the focus for a partnership among the private sector, the Department of Education, the High Technology Development Corporation, and the University of Hawai'i to support such education and training.

For example, JABSOM's Problem-Based Learning curriculum - an innovative educational approach shown to enhance critical thinking and self-directed learning among students - can be adopted to scientific studies at all grade levels. K-12 educational programs can also tap JABSOM's wealth of research capabilities in specialties such as infectious diseases, molecular biology, neuroscience, and genomic medicine. The Cancer Research Center already mentors high-school students under its CURE Program and will offer greatly expanded K-12 educational research opportunities when its new Kaka'ako facility is constructed.

It's important that leaders of private biotech ventures be included in development of this strategy because of their key role in the future development of this industry. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.