

Statement of

Edwin C. Cadman, MD
Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, ARTS, AND TECHNOLOGY

March 18, 2004
State Capitol, Conference Room 225, 2:45 p.m.

in consideration of

HB 2739 HD1

**RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS BY
THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Aduja, and Committee members.

The University of Hawaii (UH) John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) strongly supports HB 2739 HD1, which authorizes the issuance of \$100 million in special purpose revenue bonds by the High Technology Development Corporation to finance wet lab space and a biotech incubator near the UH medical school at Kaka'ako.

Hawaii has invested \$150 million for a bioscience research park at Kaka'ako with the JABSOM relocating its education and administration into one building (138,000 gsq ft.) and a science building (216,000 gsq ft.) that will accommodate some of the basic research of the medical school. The medical school could lead the biotechnology effort for Hawaii as done in other states like San Diego, the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Boston, Baltimore, New York City, and the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. All of these biotechnology sites have developed around areas where medical discoveries are being made—mainly at research medical schools and biomedical research institutes. Through the medical school's research, it would become the focal point of a new bioscience initiative in Hawaii. The academic environment is the nurturing place for the biotechnology industry.

Two things are lacking to have a robust biotech industry in Hawaii—the workforce and research space, particularly wet lab space and a biotech incubator. The medical school can work with the high schools and community colleges to train the work force. The state and private sector need to build the research space. HB 2739 HD1 will be instrumental in financing and therefore, in facilitating the development of additional research buildings, with leasable research space, that would be clustered around the core medical school. Leasable research space is critical to Hawaii's effort to support a new biotech industry. Small companies that will grow from the discoveries made at the medical school and private research will be housed in this space.

In closing, I strongly urge you to support HB 2739 HD1 since it would create a new economic cluster in the state by developing and attracting new R&D companies and supporting existing biotech companies through the development of needed research space by the biotechnology industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.