



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 31, 2006

by
Kevin Kelly, UH System Managing Director, EPSCoR for
James R. Gaines, Interim Vice President for Research

HB 3057 HD1 SD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB3057 which appropriates funds to the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) for the small business innovation research grant program (SBIR), the small business technology transfer program (STTR), and the phase 0 competition assistance Program.

I am the UH System Managing Director for the National Science foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) here in Hawaii and I am testifying on behalf of Dr Jim Gaines the Principal Investigator of the project. A significant outcome from the research programs we run in the areas of genetics and ecology of an island system include the transfer of new technologies developed in our programs out into the private sector.

While SBIR funded start-up projects and companies are an important part of the pipeline that feeds and increases the size and number of research and development companies seeking to commercialize technologies in Hawaii, the University and EPSCoR stand ready to assist companies in their STTR efforts where the majority of the research is done at a university. In either case, this program plays an important role in the growth of Hawaii's technology industry, enabling local Hawaii companies to more effectively compete with mainland companies and creating jobs.

With new infrastructure and projects dedicated to the development of Hawaii's biotechnology and life sciences industry, including new programs focused on maritime and port security, we fully support extending the current SBIR program to include the STTR program. This extension would encourage small companies and researchers at nonprofit research institutions, including research universities and colleges, to work together as a team to move technologies developed in the laboratory to the marketplace and to foster technology based economic development. We also fully support the proposed Phase 0 program to assist technology companies to apply for these SBIR/STTR grants and helping them develop nationally competitive proposals.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Kelly".

Kevin Kelly
UH System Managing Director
EPSCoR