



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

March 31, 2006

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

HB 3060 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB3060 which establishes a small business technology transfer (STTR) program within the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

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. These activities assist the University in fulfilling its mission is to accelerate the growth of Hawaii’s technology industry to create living wage jobs and diversify our economy.

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. STTRs in particular, are required to use a majority of their research funds on university-based R7D activities. This program creates new collaborations and synergies in the research community and plays an important role in the growth of Hawaii’s economy by enabling local companies to create jobs and more effectively compete with mainland companies.

With new infrastructure and projects dedicated to the development of Hawaii's biotechnology and life sciences industry, we fully support extending the current SBIR program to include the STTR program. 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 cursive script that reads "Kevin M. Kelly".

Kevin Kelly
UH System Managing Director
EPSCoR