



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns and  
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs  
February 15, 2007

By  
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### **HB 1083, Relating to High Technology**

Chair Yamashita, Chair Ito, and members of the Committees:

My name is Gary Ostrander and I currently serve as the Interim Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We strongly support HB 1083 as it would provide much needed infrastructure for the biotech industry. The Asia Pacific Research Center (APRC), when completed will be a 400,000-square-foot life science project that will be located adjacent to JABSOM and the proposed Cancer Research Center of Hawaii (CRCH). Together these projects will create an important life science and technology cluster that will promote collaboration with the faculty, scientists and researchers at the University of Hawai'i (UH).

The APRC is the only proposed facility that will be available to other public and private companies and institutions. It will attract other biotech and life science companies to Kaka'ako and generate high skill/high wage jobs. It will provide opportunities for Hawai'i's researchers and scientist to stay home or to return home and work in a meaningful and high paying career. We are very excited about the opportunity to participate in this important project. This will provide an opportunity for us to attract these knowledge workers and to increase the talent base here in Hawai'i.

We understand that the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) proposes to enter into a master lease of 3 floors in the Phase 1 building. We further understand that the master lease will allow the project to be financed and become a reality. Hawaii needs new modern facilities. There are no adequate facilities available to growing life science and technology companies. There is a reasonable possibility that by the time this project is completed that JABSOM faculty may have a need for additional space. Should that occur, we would certainly consider a portion of these premises. We understand that HB 1083 will make it possible for new, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities to be constructed in Kaka'ako and we strongly support its enactment. The APRC will benefit everyone in Hawai'i by creating a new industry with high paying jobs for scientists, researchers, and technicians.

In providing these opportunities for future generations of a sustainable economy and to grow the life science industry, we urge the committee to pass HB 1083.