



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Presented Before the House Committees on
Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
and Agriculture

February 5, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

by

James R. Gaines

Vice President for Research, University of Hawai'i System

HB940 RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY

The University of Hawaii supports in principle HB940 RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY which would provide funding for the planning and high technology park at the site of the animal quarantine station in Halawa on the island of Oahu.

As the largest science and technology organization in the State of Hawaii, the University has a vested interest in the growth of the science and technology industry in Hawaii. The research conducted by our faculty and students often leads directly to the creation and growth of technology companies who will benefit from the development of such a park.

The current draft of this bill requires DBEDT to work with HTDC to “plan for the establishment of a high technology park”. We respectfully request that the bill be amended to reflect the contributions that can be made from both the University and the private sector in the planning and development of those facilities and their operations.

Furthermore, it is the view of the University that the planning and construction of a technology park on Oahu may well be a result of needs identified in a comprehensive science and technology master plan for the State of Hawaii. The University is currently leading the development of a stakeholder driven master plan for the state that will identify and prioritize investments by the state in a larger framework of the development of the broader technology industry in the state. We believe it would be premature to proceed with specific tech park planning if the benefits of such an investment cannot be supported by a comprehensive planning document. We expect a final draft of this Science & Technology Plan to be delivered to the Legislature by November 2009.

The University thanks your Committees for the opportunity to testify on this bill and for the continued recognition and support of the role of university research and education in the economic diversification of our state.