



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
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By

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### **SB 896, Relating to High Technology**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Committee:

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 SB896 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 the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (UHJABSOM) and the proposed Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i (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. Hawai'i 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 SB896 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 SB896.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.