



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
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by
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SB 776, SD2 Relating to Science and Technology

Good morning Chairman McKelvey and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business. I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 776, SD2, Relating to Science and Technology.

This bill builds on the work of the small business working group convened by legislators in the House and Senate and on UH President Greenwood's Advisory Council on Hawai'i Innovation and Technology Advancement. It establishes a Biotechnology Task Force to:

- Identify barriers that Hawai'i businesses and university professors face in developing entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology, and
- Recommend specific actions to address these issues.

SB 776, SD2 (SSCR 654) identifies the representative of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to serve as the Chair of the Biotechnology Task Force, and requests that the Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the 2012 Hawai'i State Legislature.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources believes the work assigned to the Biotechnology Task Force is important and supports this bill.