



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
April 15, 2015 at 2:45pm

by  
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WRITTEN ONLY

GM 614 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, John Morton, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 614 and the nomination of Dr. John F. Morton to serve on the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known and worked with Dr. Morton for well over 30 years and I believe he will continue to be a superb HTDC Board Member.

As an individual, Dr. Morton is extraordinarily creative and a true problem-solver who does not limit his vision to conventional or easy paths forward. He has extensive experience working with Boards in both the public and non-profit sectors, and he understands State processes (for better and worse) as well as anyone I know. These characteristics will enable Dr. Morton to make an immense contribution to HTDC.

In his role as Vice President for Community Colleges, Dr. Morton leads seven campuses that place a tremendous focus on meeting the State's workforce needs. He has dedicated himself to this mission in Hawai'i for over four decades and will provide HTDC with unparalleled knowledge and capacity to address these critical issues.

More broadly, in his role as a Vice President for Community Colleges of the University of Hawai'i (UH) System, Dr. Morton is one of our most senior executives. To the extent that UH and HTDC have many intertwined missions and interests, HTDC could have no better liaison. Dr. Morton will be an able and articulate representative for HTDC with UH and vice versa.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 614 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Dr. John Morton's nomination to serve on the HTDC Board of Directors.