



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
by
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HB 2356 HD1 – RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 2356 HD1, which seeks to increase the cap on Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) awards to businesses applying for the Hawai'i Small Business Innovation Research Grant and the Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Program. Additionally, the measure classifies both the purchase of renewable energy systems and training on manufacturing equipment as eligible expenses under the Manufacturing Development Grant Program. The measure also appropriates funds to the SBIR, MAP and Accelerator Grant programs.

The University of Hawai'i shares a similar vision with HTDC to help establish a thriving innovation-based sector to boost the local economy, create jobs and to develop a highly skilled technical workforce. Continued or increased cap amounts for HTDC's award programs are crucial to moving innovation, commercialization and manufacturing efforts forward in the state.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.