



Written Statement of
Matthew Kobayashi
Projects Development Manager
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Friday, February 7, 2025
10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HB546, HD1
RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Chair Iligan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports HB546 HD1, which proposes the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute at the University of Hawaii. This initiative aligns with HTDC's mission to foster innovation, develop talent, and drive economic growth in Hawaii's technology sector.

The AI Institute will promote cutting-edge research and innovation tailored to Hawaii's unique cultural, economic, and environmental needs. It will advance workforce development and education, preparing residents for an AI-driven future

The University of Hawaii, with its diverse academic disciplines and research strengths, is uniquely positioned to serve as the hub for AI development in areas such as renewable energy, climate resilience, health, sustainable agriculture, and cultural preservation. The institute will provide access to advanced computing infrastructure, AI and data science expertise, and collaborative workspaces to support research, education, and creative projects.

HTDC believes that the AI Institute will serve as a model of excellence for regional innovation, workforce development, knowledge creation, and social good. We urge the legislature to support HB546 and help Hawai'i become a leader in AI research and development.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

HB-546-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:18:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/7/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

We've got to get artificial intelligence right. There is no greater technology that has so much promise and peril, and we're already caught in the vortex of changes. This is a worthy idea that can help steer the benefits of artificial intelligence in Hawaii.

I strongly encourage this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Friday, February 7, 2025 at 10:15 a.m.

By

Vassilis L. Syrmos
Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

HB 546 HD1 – RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly supports HB 546 HD1 which appropriates funds to establish an artificial intelligence (AI) institute within UH.

The AI institute will take a unified approach for AI insertion within activities involving UH, the state, and the greater community to address guidelines and policy, workforce development and training, and research and development in services, industries and clusters. These areas, where both UH and the state have capacity and have made investments, include: clean/renewable energy, climate resilience, space sciences and engineering, health, sustainable agriculture, additive manufacturing, creative media, and cultural preservation.

As AI is rapidly transforming almost every aspect of daily life worldwide by enabling computers to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity, and autonomy, it is important for the state to stay ahead of this unprecedented evolution in technology. The intent of this measure is to formalize and integrate the efforts, expertise, activities and approaches across UH's ten-campus system to serve as a resource for UH and the broader community to encourage economic development that is aligned with the state's needs.

The University of Hawai'i intends to invest in the AI institute from revenue generated by its research activities and is asking the state to make an investment as a partner in this important initiative for the benefit of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 546 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in UH's BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.