

EPSCoR Hawai`i Island Community Advisory Committee

January 30, 2013

Committee on Higher Education
Committee on Education

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 750
Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute

Aloha:

I am writing on behalf of the EPSCoR Hawai`i Island Community Advisory Committee (HICAC) to express enthusiastic support for HB 750, relating to establishing the Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Our committee is comprised of Native Hawaiian *kupuna*. Over the past two years, we have provided Dr. Jim Gaines, the Principal Investigator for the University of Hawaii's National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant with recommendations related to integrating an understanding and appreciation of indigenous culture and practices with research conducted in Hawai`i.

Through our work on this committee, we have come to realize that to truly benefit the community, research and technology efforts must *integrate* education (P-20), workforce, industry, business, and community.

The formation and support of the Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute is a vital step towards advancing Hawaii to a successful and leadership position in science and technology.

Mahalo,



Leona K. Seto-Mook
Kaka 'Olelo
Hawai`i Island Community Advisory Committee



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
January 31, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.
by
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB750 RELATING TO THE HAWAII ISLAND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE
INSTITUTE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support HB750 to establish the Hawai'i Island Technology Exchange Institute at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Science and technology are important for Hawaii's future to withstand and respond to changes to the natural, economic and social environments. This proposal will help us to be more sustainable and to develop a highly capable workforce that will contribute to the future needs of our island economy. UH Hilo views our collaboration with Hawai'i Community College as extremely important to provide higher education and career options to the people of our Hawai'i Island.

We support HB750 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB750. Aloha.

January 30, 2013

Dear Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Respected Members of the Committee,

I enthusiastically support HB 750, which establishes the Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute, and because the future of our state depends on the future we can create for ourselves.

A sustainable model begins with a focal point that starts on a small scale and builds from there. The Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute is such a pilot, an opportunity to develop a model that works. It will be based in a small community where everybody knows your name, where people work and play together, where the university and community college can work together without all the posturing that gets in the way of real success.

To be successful, we must prepare our students for the jobs of the future by providing them with the opportunities to develop science and technology skills. To accomplish this, we must create the academic and research environment in where these opportunities exist, and innovation and risk tolerance are championed and not feared. The Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute provides this opportunity.

To be successful, we must embrace and apply innovative research opportunities for professional and technical job growth that will contribute to a stronger and more stable local economy. Again, we must create opportunities for our youth to develop business, research, organizational, financial and administrative skills, and facilitate internships for them to practice and develop these skills and to stimulate their interests in an S&T career. The Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute paves the way for this to become a reality.

Please support the Hawaii Island Technology Exchange Institute. We owe this to the next generation of students and to the future of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

David J. Lovell
Director, Research Administration and Project Development, UH Hilo
Vice Chair, Hui Malama Ola Na 'Oiwī, Native Hawaiian Health Care System
Director, Kanoiehua Industrial Area Association