

# GM614

Measure Title: 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.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation

Written Statement of  
**ROBBIE MELTON**  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 16  
In consideration of

**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 06-30-2019.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee on Economic  
Development and Technology.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to **support the confirmation** of Dr. John Morton to  
the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) Board of Directors.

Since I took on the role of Executive Director for HTDC in February 2014, I have had the  
opportunity to work with Dr. Morton as the University of Hawaii (UH) representative to the  
HTDC Board. Dr. Morton has been a valuable member of our board contributing vision and  
leadership backed by his years of knowledge building the University of Hawaii Community  
College System into the tremendous asset it has become for our community today. His  
knowledge of the UH system has contributed in shaping HTDC's role as a partner in building an  
innovation economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote  
on his behalf.



# 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  
David Lassner  
President, University of Hawai'i  
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.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 2:45 pm  
by  
Vassilis L. Syrmos  
Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i  
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:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony for Dr. John F. Morton in strong support of his recent nomination to the High Technology Development Corporation Board.

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Morton for a number of years, both in my previous capacity as associate vice chancellor for research and graduate education at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and currently as vice president for research and innovation for the University of Hawai'i System. Dr. Morton is a strong advocate of research and technology, whether in his role as UH vice president for Community Colleges or as the UH representative on the HTDC Board.

Dr. Morton has displayed excellent stewardship of the seven campuses and has positioned them as enriching places for students to earn a two-year associate's degree/certificate or to build a strong academic foundation in pursuit of a baccalaureate education at a four-year campus like UH Mānoa, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu or on the mainland. He has a deep understanding of academics and its far-reaching benefits on both our students and the community.

My office is currently engaged with the local business community on the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, a bold economic stimulus movement, to help create a diversified economy for the state through the successful commercialization of UH research. Under Dr. Morton's charge, our seven community colleges have received numerous workforce development grants from U.S. Department of Labor of more than \$37 million and he has overseen the ramp up of their STEM programs to provide a qualified, highly trained workforce for the state.

Dr. Morton started his UH career at Leeward Community College as a member of the chemistry and political science faculty, became dean of students and later went on to

serve as chancellor of Kapi'olani Community College. His enduring success indicates to me that he is quite astute in his understanding of the culture of the islands, UH culture and the subtleties of local politics. In my dealings with him, I have found Dr. Morton to be an intelligent thinker and a quick-study with an engaging and open management style. He is a consummate and knowledgeable professional.

Beyond UH, Dr. Morton is quite accomplished as well, serving as a board chair of ASSETS School, chair of the Hawai'i Health Information Corporation, a governor of the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council, and as a member of the P-20 Advisory Council

It is with strong support that I recommend that Dr. John F. Morton be appointed to the HTDC Board.

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol Room 016

Testimony by Irma Kaneshiro, Private Secretary to the VPCC and  
Deborah Nakagawa, Executive Assistant to the VPCC/UH Community Colleges  
International Director

Economic Development and Technology Committee  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

GM614 Consideration and Confirmation for **John F. Morton** to the  
Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation,  
Term to Expire 6-30-2019

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Sam Slom, and members of the Committee:

We are pleased to offer our letter of support for John F. Morton, Ph.D., Governor David Ige's nominee to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). John's extensive experience, knowledge, and expertise will benefit the HTDC and the State of Hawai'i.

Since 2005, John has been Vice President for Community Colleges and has served as Chancellor of Kapi'olani Community Colleges for 21 years; he has over 45 years of diverse and pertinent experience within the University of Hawai'i system. Since 2002, he has overseen the development, implementation, and ongoing evolution of the comprehensive UH Student Information System that requires immediate analysis and decision. John's extensive background in higher education and technology will enable the HTDC to be progressive and make sound recommendations and decisions.

In addition to John's extensive knowledge of complex issues and processes, more importantly, he is approachable. John has the ability to explain complex and convoluted matters in simple, layman terms that give us a better understanding and he never makes us feel uncomfortable asking a "dumb question." He has a calming presence during crises that alleviates our high anxieties as he offers a solution or guides us on the right track.

We have worked closely with John for many years and can vouch first hand that he will be an asset to the HTDC as the Board deals with the development and growth of Hawai'i's high technology industry and shares information. His professional and personal experiences, demeanor, and positive attitude will ensure that the Board and people of Hawai'i be served well.

Thank you for your consideration. We respectfully request that you confirm John F. Morton to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation.

April 10, 2015

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair  
Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: GM 614: Support for confirmation of appointment of Dr. John Morton to the Board of the High Technology Development Corporation

Chairman Wakai and Vice Chairman Slom,

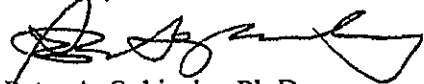
I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Dr. John Morton as a member of the High Technology Development Corporation Board.

HHIC, a non-profit company, was created in 1994 to develop and manage a database of inpatient administrative and clinical information to assist Hawaii's healthcare institutions in cost control and quality improvement. Over the subsequent years, we have built secure, high quality databases of hospital inpatient and ER data that provide a broad, up-to-date resource and are currently developing new data sources that will benefit Hawaii's healthcare community. Dr. Morton's leadership, both as a vice chair of our Board between 1998 and 2002 and as chair from 2003 to the present, has been crucial to HHIC's longevity and success.

In his role as Chairman, Dr. Morton has provided strong and capable leadership to the Board. His leadership style has been a collaborative one that has emphasized making the best use of the considerable experience and capabilities of each Board member. This also entails a rapid grasp of the circumstances around the decision to be made, thoughtful consideration of the alternatives and guidance of the human dynamics of the Board to arrive at the solution that best fits the circumstances of the decision. His work with both my predecessor as CEO and I has been extremely collaborative, reflecting his own extensive experience as a leader and with the close interactions necessary to be successful in the Executive-Board relationship. These qualities are extremely useful to Board service and should greatly benefit the High Technology Development Corporation Board.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend Dr. Morton's reappointment and strongly urge you to confirm the appointment of this highly qualified leader to the Board of the High Technology Development Corporation.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Sybinsky, Ph.D.  
President & CEO

Randolph G. Moore  
2445-A Makiki Heights Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Telephone 808-778-8832

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April 11, 2015

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Senator Wakai and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Subject: GM 614 – Nomination of John Morton as Chairperson, DLNR

I am writing in support of Governor Ige's nomination of John Morton to the board of directors of the High Technology Development Corporation. I regret that I have a prior commitment at the time your committee will meet to discuss this nomination and will therefore not be able to testify in person.

Dr. Morton is a distinguished vice president for community colleges of the University of Hawaii and I have known him through his regular appearances at meetings of the University of Hawaii board of regents, of which I am a member. Dr. Morton is unfailingly thoughtful, courteous, respectful of divergent points of view, and knowledgeable about whatever topic for which he has responsibility. He has a good sense of humor, which is essential to the effective functioning of an executive or board member. He understands the role of a member of a board of directors. He is very familiar with the University of Hawaii's Innovation Initiative, for which the High Tech Development Corporation plays an important role. In addition to his personal attributes that make him an effective board member, Dr. Morton has a science background and brings a scientific mind to the consideration of matters both scientific and otherwise.

I support without hesitation or reservation Dr. Morton's reappointment to the board of directors of the High Tech Development Corporation.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely yours,

*Randolph G. Moore*