

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TAX CREDIT FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 235-110.91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3           "**§235-110.91 Tax credit for research activities.** (a)  
4 Section 41 (with respect to the credit for increasing research  
5 activities) and section 280C(c) (with respect to certain  
6 expenses for which the credit for increasing research activities  
7 are allowable) of the Internal Revenue Code shall be operative  
8 for the purposes of this chapter as provided in this section;  
9 provided that the federal tax provisions in section 41 of the  
10 Internal Revenue Code, as that section was enacted on  
11 December 31, 2011, irrespective of any subsequent changes to  
12 section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, shall remain in effect  
13 for purposes of determining the state income tax credit under  
14 this section; provided further that the federal tax provisions  
15 in section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, as enacted on  
16 December 31, 2011, irrespective of any subsequent amendments to  
17 section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, shall apply only to



1 expenses incurred for qualified research activities after  
2 December 31, 2012.

3 (b) All references to Internal Revenue Code sections  
4 within sections 41 and 280C(c) of the Internal Revenue Code  
5 shall be operative for purposes of this section; provided that  
6 references to the base amount in section 41 of the Internal  
7 Revenue Code shall not apply, and credit for all qualified  
8 research expenses may be taken without regard to the amount of  
9 expenses for previous years.

10 (c) There shall be allowed to each qualified high  
11 technology business subject to the tax imposed by this chapter  
12 an income tax credit for qualified research activities equal to  
13 the credit for research activities provided by section 41 of the  
14 Internal Revenue Code and as modified by this section; provided  
15 that, in addition to any other requirements established in this  
16 section, in order to qualify for the tax credit established in  
17 this section, the qualified high technology business shall also  
18 claim a federal tax credit for the same qualified research  
19 activities under section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, as  
20 enacted on December 31, 2011, irrespective of any subsequent  
21 amendments to section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code. The



1 credit shall be deductible from the taxpayer's net income tax  
2 liability, if any, imposed by this chapter for the taxable year  
3 in which the credit is properly claimed. Each taxpayer,  
4 together with all of its related entities, shall be eligible for  
5 no more than \$1,000,000 in tax credits provided by this section  
6 per taxable year.

7 (d) ~~[Every]~~ To be eligible for the credit, every qualified  
8 high technology business, ~~[before March 31 of each year]~~ no  
9 later than the last day of the third month immediately following  
10 the end of each taxable year in which qualified research and  
11 development activity was conducted ~~[in the previous taxable~~  
12 ~~year]~~, shall submit a written, certified statement to the  
13 department of business, economic development, and tourism,  
14 identifying~~[+]~~ at a minimum:

- 15 (1) Qualified expenditures, if any, expended in the  
16 previous taxable year; ~~[and]~~
- 17 (2) The amount of tax credits claimed pursuant to this  
18 section, if any, in the previous taxable year~~[+]~~;
- 19 (3) The industry sector or sectors in which the qualified  
20 high technology business conducts business, as set



- 1           forth in paragraphs (2) to (8) of the definition of  
2           "qualified research" in section 235-7.3(c);
- 3           (4) Revenue and expense data, including a breakdown of any  
4           licensing royalty or other forms of income generated  
5           from intellectual property;
- 6           (5) Hawaii employment and wage data, including the numbers  
7           of full-time and part-time employees retained, new  
8           jobs, temporary positions, external services procured  
9           by the business, and payroll taxes;
- 10          (6) Filed intellectual property, including invention  
11          disclosures, provisional patents, and patents issued  
12          or granted; and
- 13          (7) The number of new companies spun out or established to  
14          commercialize the intellectual property owned by the  
15          qualified high technology business.

16 Failure to meet the requirements of this subsection shall  
17 constitute a waiver of the right to claim the credit.

18           The department of business, economic development, and  
19 tourism shall request information in each of these categories  
20 sufficient to measure the effectiveness of the tax credit under  
21 this section. The department of business, economic development,



1 and tourism may request any additional information necessary to  
2 measure the effectiveness of the tax credit, such as information  
3 related to patents.

4 (e) The department of business, economic development, and  
5 tourism shall:

6 (1) Maintain records of the names and addresses of the  
7 taxpayers claiming the credits under this section and  
8 the total amount of the qualified research and  
9 development activity costs upon which the tax credit  
10 is based;

11 (2) Verify the nature of the qualifying research activity  
12 and the amount of the qualifying costs or  
13 expenditures;

14 (3) Total all qualifying and cumulative costs or  
15 expenditures that the department certifies; and

16 (4) Certify the amount of the tax credit for each taxable  
17 year and cumulative amount of the tax credit.

18 Upon each determination made under this subsection, the  
19 department of business, economic development, and tourism shall  
20 issue a certificate to the taxpayer verifying information  
21 submitted to the department of business, economic development,



1 and tourism, including the qualifying costs or expenditure  
2 amounts, the credit amount certified for each taxable year, and  
3 the cumulative amount of the tax credit during the credit  
4 period. The taxpayer shall file the certificate with the  
5 taxpayer's tax return with the department of taxation.  
6 Notwithstanding the authority of the department of business,  
7 economic development, and tourism under this section, the  
8 director of taxation may audit and adjust the tax credit amount  
9 to conform to the facts.

10 The department of business, economic development, and  
11 tourism may assess and collect a fee to offset the costs of  
12 certifying tax credit claims under this section.

13 (f) If in any [~~taxable~~] calendar year the annual amount of  
14 certified credits reaches \$5,000,000 in the aggregate, the  
15 department of business, economic development, and tourism shall  
16 immediately discontinue certifying credits and notify the  
17 department of taxation. In no instance shall the department of  
18 business, economic development, and tourism certify a total  
19 amount of credits exceeding \$5,000,000 per [~~taxable~~] calendar  
20 year. To comply with this restriction, the department of  
21 business, economic development, and tourism shall certify



1 credits on a first come, first served basis[-], which shall be  
2 determined based on the date a complete application is received  
3 by the department of business, economic development, and  
4 tourism; provided that a taxpayer who is unable to receive a  
5 credit certification solely because the \$5,000,000 aggregate cap  
6 has been reached shall receive certification priority in the  
7 following calendar year for the certification requested in the  
8 submitted application if the taxpayer is still eligible to claim  
9 that tax credit under subsection (h). In no event shall this  
10 subsection be interpreted to extend the deadline to claim the  
11 credit under subsection (h). The department of taxation, in  
12 conjunction with the department of business, economic  
13 development, and tourism, shall issue guidance or adopt  
14 administrative rules addressing the allocation of credits when  
15 the amount of credits requested in complete applications  
16 received on the same day exceeds the amount of credit available  
17 for allocation.

18       The department of taxation shall not allow the aggregate  
19 amount of credits claimed to exceed that amount per taxable  
20 year.



1 (g) If the tax credit for qualified research activities  
2 claimed by a taxpayer exceeds the amount of income tax payment  
3 due from the taxpayer, the excess of the tax credit over  
4 payments due shall be refunded to the taxpayer; provided that no  
5 refund on account of the tax credit allowed by this section  
6 shall be made for amounts less than \$1.

7 (h) All claims for a tax credit under this section shall  
8 be filed on or before the end of the twelfth month following the  
9 close of the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed.  
10 Failure to properly claim the credit shall constitute a waiver  
11 of the right to claim the credit.

12 ~~[(i) A qualified high technology business that claims the~~  
13 ~~credit under this section shall complete and file with the~~  
14 ~~department of business, economic development, and tourism,~~  
15 ~~through that department's website, an annual survey on~~  
16 ~~electronic forms prepared and prescribed by the department of~~  
17 ~~business, economic development, and tourism. The annual survey~~  
18 ~~shall be filed before June 30 of each calendar year following~~  
19 ~~the calendar year in which the credit may be claimed under this~~  
20 ~~section. The department of business, economic development, and~~



1 ~~tourism may adjust the due date of the annual survey by rules~~  
2 ~~adopted pursuant to chapter 91.~~

3 ~~(j) The annual survey under subsection (i) shall include~~  
4 ~~the following information for the time period or periods~~  
5 ~~specified by the department of business, economic development,~~  
6 ~~and tourism:~~

7 ~~(1) Identification of the industry sector or sectors in~~  
8 ~~which the qualified high technology business conducts~~  
9 ~~business, as set forth in paragraphs (2) to (8) of the~~  
10 ~~definition of "qualified research" in~~  
11 ~~section 235-7.3(c);~~

12 ~~(2) Total expenditures and the qualified expenditures, if~~  
13 ~~any, expended in the previous taxable year;~~

14 ~~(3) Revenue and expense data, including a breakdown of any~~  
15 ~~licensing royalty or other forms of income generated~~  
16 ~~from intellectual property;~~

17 ~~(4) Hawaii employment and wage data, including the numbers~~  
18 ~~of full-time and part-time employees retained, new~~  
19 ~~jobs, temporary positions, external services procured~~  
20 ~~by the business, and payroll taxes;~~



1       ~~(5) Filed intellectual property, including invention~~  
2           ~~disclosures, provisional patents, and patents issued~~  
3           ~~or granted; and~~

4       ~~(6) The number of new companies spun out or established to~~  
5           ~~commercialize the intellectual property owned by the~~  
6           ~~qualified high technology business.~~

7           ~~The department of business, economic development, and~~  
8 ~~tourism shall request information in each of these categories~~  
9 ~~sufficient to measure the effectiveness of the tax credit under~~  
10 ~~this section. The department of business, economic development,~~  
11 ~~and tourism may request any additional information necessary to~~  
12 ~~measure the effectiveness of the tax credit, such as information~~  
13 ~~related to patents. In preparing the survey and requesting any~~  
14 ~~additional information, the department of business, economic~~  
15 ~~development, and tourism shall ensure that qualified high~~  
16 ~~technology businesses are not subject to duplicative reporting~~  
17 ~~requirements.~~

18       ~~(k)]~~ (i) The department of business, economic development,  
19 and tourism shall use information collected under this section  
20 and through its other reporting requirements to prepare summary  
21 descriptive statistics by category. The information shall be



1 reported at the aggregate level to prevent compromising  
2 identities of qualified high technology business investors or  
3 other confidential information. The department of business,  
4 economic development, and tourism shall also identify each  
5 qualified high technology business that applies for or is the  
6 beneficiary of tax credits claimed under this section. The  
7 department of business, economic development, and tourism shall  
8 report the information required under this subsection to the  
9 legislature by September 1 of each year.

10 [~~(i)~~] (j) The department of business, economic  
11 development, and tourism, in collaboration with the department  
12 of taxation, shall use the information collected to study the  
13 effectiveness of the tax credit under this section. The  
14 department of business, economic development, and tourism shall  
15 submit a report to the legislature on the following:

- 16 (1) The amount of tax credits claimed and total taxes paid  
17 by qualified high technology businesses;
- 18 (2) The number of qualified high technology businesses in  
19 each industry sector;
- 20 (3) The numbers and types of jobs created by qualified  
21 high technology businesses;



- 1 (4) External services and materials procured by the  
2 businesses;
- 3 (5) The compensation levels of jobs provided by qualified  
4 high technology businesses;
- 5 (6) Qualified research activities; and
- 6 (7) Any other factors the department of business, economic  
7 development, and tourism deems relevant.

8 The department of business, economic development, and tourism  
9 shall submit the report to the legislature by September 1 of  
10 each year.

11 [~~(m)~~] (k) The director of taxation may adopt any rules  
12 under chapter 91 and forms necessary to carry out this section.

13 [~~(n)~~] (l) This section shall not apply to taxable years  
14 beginning after December 31, 2024.

15 [~~(o)~~] (m) As used in this section:

16 "Qualified high technology business" shall have the same  
17 meaning as in section 235-7.3(c).

18 "Qualified research" shall have the same meaning as in  
19 section 41(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

20 "Qualified research expenses" shall have the same meaning  
21 as in section 41(b) of the Internal Revenue Code; provided that



1 it shall not include research expenses incurred outside of the  
2 State."

3 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and  
6 shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Tax Credit for Research Activities

**Description:**

Consolidates the survey and certification requirements for the research activities tax credit. Requires the certification on a first come, first served basis by date subject to certain conditions. Adds a cap for the taxpayer and related entities. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

