



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII[®]

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i

Wendy F. Hensel
President

DEPT. COMM. NO. 77

December 9, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, the University of Hawai'i is transmitting one copy of the Annual Report on Technology Transfer Activities (Section 304A-121, Hawai'i Revised Statutes) as requested by the Legislature.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this report may be viewed electronically at: https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2026/hrs304a-121_2026_tech-transfer_annual-report_508.pdf.

Should you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Kim at (808) 956-4250, or via e-mail at scskim@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy F. Hensel".

Wendy F. Hensel
President

Enclosure

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2026 LEGISLATURE

Annual Report on Technology Transfer Activities

HRS 304A-121

December 2025

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES
PURSUANT TO §304A-121, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

Technology Transfer Activities of the University of Hawai‘i through October 2025.

The University of Hawai‘i (UH) is the primary public institution in the state conducting basic, academic, or sponsored research. Where appropriate to its mission and to the larger strategic initiatives of the State, UH commercializes inventions and discoveries produced by its faculty and staff by obtaining patents or other forms of protection for the intellectual property, licensing the intellectual property to commercial business, and providing administrative support to faculty who wish to start up their own companies to commercialize the discoveries, with UH retaining an equity interest in the private enterprise.

The pursuit of commercialization is designed to strengthen local economies by getting new ideas, inventions, and processes developed in a university to the private sector as effectively as possible. This technology transfer and commercialization effort occurs throughout the nation at other universities. HRS §84-10 provides the ability for the University of Hawai‘i to remain competitive and strengthen the local economy by shifting the responsibility of ethical oversight for UH-sponsored technology transfer activities from the State Ethics Commission to UH.

HRS §84-10 was made permanent when the sunset provision was repealed by the Hawai‘i State Legislature in 2024. The University of Hawai‘i has implemented its own set of policies, procedures and guidelines to apply to technology transfer activities it sponsors, drawing from its existing compliance infrastructure, the State Ethics Code, and relevant federal conflict of interest and organizational conflict regulations. This includes Board of Regents Policy 12.211 (Ethical Guidelines in the Conduct of Technology Transfer Activities), Executive Policy 12.206 (Policy for Ethical Guidelines in the Conduct of Technology Transfer Activities), and Administrative Procedure 12.206 (Procedures to Manage Ethical Issues in Technology Transfer Activities Sponsored by the University) and can be found at www.hawaii.edu/policy/.

Technology Transfer and Commercialization Activities at the University of Hawai‘i

Through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the Office of Innovation and Commercialization (OIC), and the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT), UH supported and engaged in the following activities as part of its technology transfer program:

Ongoing Initiatives/Activities

- OTT received 48 invention disclosures, filed 13 U.S. non-provisional patent applications, received 7 U.S. patents, and executed 8 new license and option agreements. The inventions

were generated by different units at UH: College of Arts, Languages & Letters, John A. Burns School of Medicine, UH Cancer Center, College of Natural Sciences, College of Social Sciences, College of Engineering, School of Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, Academy for Creative Media at UH West O‘ahu, and the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo.

- Across the reporting period, OTT generated \$364,395.25 of license fees and royalties from the commercialization of UH technologies. The revenue stems from both fruitful licenses from previous years, and also the negotiation and execution of new licenses.
- OIC/OTT continued its partnership with the Hawai‘i Technology Development Corporation’s (HTDC) Innovate Hawai‘i to build the next generation of Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) companies. As part of efforts to increase awareness of SBIR/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs and opportunities, OIC partnered with HTDC to host a series of in-person workshops on the SBIR/STTR programs, including one-on-one meetings with SBIR/STTR program representatives. OIC is also continuing to introduce the SBIR/STTR program and opportunities for UH faculty/researchers and UH startups through meetings and information sessions, as well as working with HTDC to identify resource gaps. OIC is actively participating and supporting the Hawai‘i SBIR Program, which is administered by HTDC and provides matching grants to help Hawai‘i companies further the development of new products to solve critical issues.
- OIC/OTT continues educational outreach on UH’s technology transfer and entrepreneurial programs and resources to faculty, researchers and students at all UH campuses.
- Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) at the UH Mānoa Shidler College of Business sponsors innovation and entrepreneurship competitions for students, as well as workshops and mentorships to encourage innovation and entrepreneur activities. OIC collaborated with PACE on the Entrepreneurship Live speaker series, which invites founders and company executives to share their entrepreneurial journeys with UH students. Speakers during the reporting period included: Timothy Kim (Gochi), Avian Ki (ILA SWIMS), Guy Kawasaki (Canva), Ryan Ching (Ry’s Poke Shack), Joni Redick Yundt (FAMES Hawaii), Rose Wong (Kolohe), and Kūha‘o Zane (Sig Zane Designs).
- Faculty Fellows provides UH faculty members the opportunity to learn to incorporate innovation and entrepreneurial skills into curriculum, and build a community of practice at UH. The first cohort from the UH Mānoa College of Engineering completed the program in Fall 2023, and with their feedback, the program is being updated to enhance content and delivery. The next cohort is planned to be launched in 2026.

- Patents2Products provides UH graduate students and postdocs an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills while advancing the development and commercial potential of UH technologies. UH innovations are advanced by translational activities including further research, product development and market definition. The second cohort ended in 2025, and we are currently recruiting for the third cohort, which is planned to start in January 2026.
- Ideation Studios (formerly HITIDE) has been retooled and is a UH entrepreneurship program that helps researchers, students, and UH affiliated companies bring deep tech innovations to market. Through tailored training, mentorship, and networking, the program equips participants with the skills and plans needed to launch successful ventures that strengthen Hawai‘i’s innovation economy. Plans call for a launch in 2026.
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) provides faculty, staff and students experiential training to advance research-based innovations by testing the market and developing a business strategy. UH is part of the NSF I-Corps Hub: Desert and Pacific Region, which includes eight other universities: Arizona State University, The University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, University of California San Diego, San Diego State University (joined in 2024), University of Idaho, Boise State University and University of Nevada Las Vegas. Thirty-nine faculty and students from UH Mānoa, UH Maui College and UH Hilo completed the program. In addition, with support from OIC and the Hub, UH Mānoa researchers from the chemistry department, successfully applied to the national NSF I-Corps TEAMS program.
- Several UH researchers participated in the HTDC Tech Showcase in July and OIC collaborated with HTDC during Honolulu Tech Week in September 2025.

Disclosures

- A conflict of interest management plan, effective December 23, 2024, was executed for an employee at UH Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine.