



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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DTS: 202511121140YU

November 19, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President and Members  
of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation's 2025 Annual Report, as required by Section 206M-3.5, 206M-15.1, and 206M-72 Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/overview/annual-reports-reports-to-the-legislature/>.

Sincerely,

James Kunane Tokioka  
DBEDT Director

Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau



**htdc**

**Hawai‘i Technology Development Corporation**  
**Annual Report 2025**

This report fulfills the reporting requirements as required by 206M-3.5, 206M-72, and 206M-15



## Executive Director's message

Aloha kākou,

I am honored to share my first message as the Executive Director and CEO of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). Although I have only recently assumed this role, I hold deep respect for the foundational work of HTDC's staff, ecosystem builders, and partners in advancing Hawai'i's technology sector.

Over the past year, HTDC's programs continued to deliver meaningful impact—from SBIR and accelerator matching grants to supporting local manufacturers through INNOVATE Hawai'i and providing collaborative spaces at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox and MRTC. These achievements reflect the dedication of our team and the resilience of our innovation ecosystem, and I sincerely thank each of you for your contributions.

Looking ahead, HTDC is pursuing a clear strategic direction: to catalyze the development of the most dynamic technology innovation hub in the Pacific. This goes beyond running programs—it means serving as a field catalyst, aligning efforts across government, education, community, and industry to create conditions where innovation can thrive for the benefit of Hawai'i and its people.

Our refreshed mission and values are rooted in Aloha 'Āina and economic resilience. We are building a future where technology uplifts communities, growth is sustainable, and young people can envision careers and opportunities right here in Hawai'i. In the coming year, we will sharpen our focus on high-potential sectors such as Ocean and Space technologies while continuing to support local entrepreneurs, workforce development, and culturally grounded innovation.

Mahalo for your continued belief in HTDC and the future of Hawai'i's technology sector. This report highlights the work of the past year but also serves as a springboard for the next chapter. We look forward to collaborating with our partners to accelerate growth and ensure Hawai'i's technology and innovation economy reflects both global ambition and local values.

Mahalo,

**Trung Lam**

Executive Director & CEO

Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC)

# Aerospace

## Aerospace Innovation & Infrastructure Development

HTDC is laying the groundwork for a statewide aerospace innovation corridor, positioning Hawai'i as a globally competitive hub for next-generation aviation and space technologies. In 2025, HTDC partnered with the Office of Aerospace Development, consulting firm Computer Access Technologies (CAT), Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) Deputy Director Dane Wicker.

Envisioned as a multi-use facility, the Aerospace Port would attract commercial operators, provide demonstration platforms, and catalyze investment across emerging aerospace industries. Pre-development efforts are already underway, with industry leaders exploring opportunities in:

- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS/UAVs)
- SeaGliders (electric ground-effect craft)
- Stratospheric Platforms (HAPS/balloon-based systems)
- Hydrogen-Powered Aircraft
- eVTOL Urban Air Mobility Platforms
- Rocket Launch Technologies (vertical and horizontal towed-launch)

Companies are actively evaluating Hawai'i for flight testing, Research and Development (R&D), and mission support, seeking collaboration with local universities, workforce pipelines, and test range infrastructure. The Aerospace Port aims to provide shared-use infrastructure, foster regulatory readiness, and serve as a long-term anchor for dual-use commercial and defense innovation.

Beyond infrastructure, HTDC is also advancing aerospace entrepreneurship and industry growth. Through its Accelerator Program, HTDC provided funding to BusinessSPACE, a Maui-based initiative supporting local technology companies through:



At NASA Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) with Artemis II rocket with the Aerospace States Association



Aerospace States Association at Fred Haise Test Stand at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi



Space Launch System (SLS) RS-25 flight engine 2048 assigned to Artemis III 2027 lunar landing mission

local engagement—positioning geothermal energy as a cornerstone of Hawaii's long-term resilience and energy independence.

These efforts highlight HTDC's commitment to bridging scientific research, federal investment, and

reduced reliance on imported fuels for both military and civilian use.

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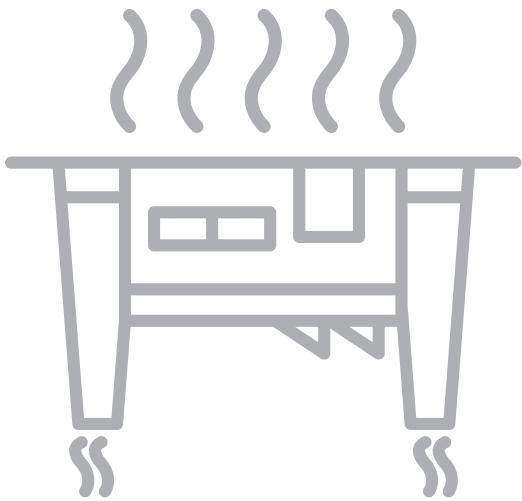
ensure a balanced and inclusive path forward.

sensitivity, community input, and technical feasibility to geothermal energy. The approach prioritizes cultural of a proposed plan to generate up to 100 megawatts of community engagement, data analysis, and development Geothermal Project contract. This effort includes University of Hawaii at Manoa through the Waikaka in 2025, HTDC extended its collaboration with the State's 100% renewable energy goals.

emphasizing equity, sustainability, and alignment with transition through strategic work in geothermal energy, HTDC continues to advance Hawaii's clean energy

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## Geothermal Energy Innovation & Collaboration

### Geothermal

research to strengthen Hawaii's role in the growing aerospace sector.

Together, these initiatives ranging from Aerospace Port planning to accelerator-backed ventures and Maui-based R&D, demonstrate how HTDC is aligning state support, industry demand, and university

rapid prototyping services for SDA TAP Lab participants and grantees.

support the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) Space Force initiatives and provide MEDB and industry partners to identify opportunities to expand advanced manufacturing facilities to

conditions for SDA TAP Lab to establish its Hawaii presence. Looking ahead, HTDC is working with

confidence with Major Allen and MITE, alongside facilities facilitated by HTDC staff, helped create the

initiated during the Advanced Maui Optical Space Surveillance Technology (AMOS) 2024

on Maui by helping secure space at the Maui Research & Technology Center (MRTC). Conversations

the Space Domain Awareness Tools, Applications, and Processing (SDA TAP) Lab operations operate

With the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) taking the lead, HTDC supported the launch of

- Tailored mentorship for early-stage and scaling ventures
- Access to government contracting opportunities
- Strategic guidance for scaling within the space industry

# Hawai‘i Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies (HCATT)

In 2025, HCATT advanced development of the Pacific Energy Assurance Renewables Laboratory (PEARL) microgrid located at the 154th Wing, Hawai‘i Air National Guard on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. On March 4, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Inc., the project's primary contractor, was awarded a \$1.67 million contract to design, procure, and deliver electrical equipment, further expanding the microgrid's capacity and enabling integration of additional renewable energy technologies.

On July 9, HCATT's federally funded Cooperative Agreement was extended through November 2027, ensuring continued contractual work and operational evaluation of this research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) project.

HCATT continues to serve as a field catalyst alongside stakeholders including the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), National Guard Bureau, 154th Wing Hawai‘i Air National Guard, and U.S. Navy. Current priorities include securing the cybersecurity Authority to Operate and completing the microgrid's initial commissioning.

With support from HTDC and its partners, HCATT is strengthening renewable energy infrastructure for the DoD while contributing to Hawai‘i's statewide goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045.



Burns & McDonnell Team in PEARL's Power Distribution Center (PDC)



PEARL switchgear



An initial successful demonstration of the “blinkless” transfer of critical load. Among those present were: AFRL Directorate Dr. Charles Ormsby, Program Manager Allan Hartong, and William Fearon, 154th Wing Civil Engineering team, Burns & McDonnell and HCATT's Dave Molinaro and Kristy Carpio.

# INNOVATE Hawai‘i

## Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP)

The Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP), administered by INNOVATE Hawai‘i, provides financial support to Hawai‘i-based manufacturers to strengthen global competitiveness. The program reimburses up to 20% of qualified expenses—such as equipment purchases and workforce training—to foster economic growth and job creation across the state.

MAP was appropriated \$1 million for FY26.

However, this funding is subject to change and pending final release. Priority will be given to applications that include advanced manufacturing equipment, such as robotics, automation, and additive manufacturing (3D printing) which align with HTDC’s strategic focus areas.

### FY25 MAP Summary

- Applications Received: 59
- Awards Granted: 34
- First-Time Awardees: 17
- Total Company Investment: \$12.4 million
- Total Grants Requested: \$1.7 million
- Total Grants Awarded: \$1.0 million

## Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)



The National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a public-private network that empowers small and mid-sized manufacturers (SMMs) across the United States. Through technical assistance, workforce development, innovation support, and operational improvements, MEP helps drive growth and competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. The program operates through 51 MEP Centers—one in each state and Puerto Rico—with more than 1,400 advisors

at 460 service locations nationwide. In Hawai‘i, INNOVATE Hawai‘i serves as the official MEP Center, connecting manufacturers to trusted advisors, specialized resources, and technical expertise.

As of Q1 2025, INNOVATE Hawai‘i ranked among the nation’s top-performing MEP Centers, scoring 98 out of 100 on its federal performance evaluation for project and training outcomes.

In April 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced reductions in federal funding for 10 of the 51 national MEP Centers, including INNOVATE Hawai‘i. Although temporary funding has been reinstated through March 2026, the long-term future of the program remains uncertain.

Despite these challenges, INNOVATE Hawai‘i continues to deliver impact. Ocean Era, for example, leveraged MEP support to scale sustainable aquaculture initiatives, advancing both local economic development and global environmental goals.



Dialing in accuracy – optimizing liquid fill rates for quality and consistency

# Textile and Apparel Manufacturing

INNOVATE Hawai‘i’s textile and apparel programs provide comprehensive support across O‘ahu and the Neighbor Islands, offering workforce training, mentorship, and funding assistance through MAP. These initiatives help manufacturers sustain and expand operations while strengthening Hawai‘i’s industry base.

## Supporting Women Through Transition Programs

INNOVATE Hawai‘i launched a pilot workforce training program designed for women facing employment barriers, including those formerly incarcerated, in recovery, or living with disabilities. The six-month program equips participants with skills for careers in Hawai‘i’s textile and apparel industry.

The curriculum progresses from foundational sewing techniques to advanced applications such as pattern marking, fabric cutting, heat pressing, and fabric design printing. Participants also gain hands-on experience through partnerships with local manufacturers that support Hawai‘i’s fashion industry.



### Phase 1 Achievements

- 80% of participants advanced to Phase 2 of training
- 100% expressed interest in pursuing careers in textile and apparel manufacturing
- 100% reported a positive training experience
- 100% demonstrated measurable improvement within the first month
- 80% successfully completed the Phase 1 assessment



Participants Tasha and Denma are focused and positive while working diligently at the manufacturer’s facility



The women proudly display the palaka fabric they are working on

# Hawai‘i Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) Program

The HSBIR program provides wraparound services and matching grants to help local companies develop innovative products addressing critical national and global challenges. Applicants must have received a federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award. The program provides up to a 50% match on federal funding and Phase 0 support for proposal preparation.

In FY25, three companies applied for Phase 0 grants, and four companies newly entered the HSBIR program.

**Notable Success:** Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative raised over \$5 million in follow-on funding after receiving a Phase II SBIR award and state matching support.

## FY25 Phase I Impacts

- Phase 0 Applications: 3
- Phase I Applications Received: 10
- Phase I Awards Granted: 8
- Total Federal Awards: \$1.79 million
- Total Matching Grants Requested: \$729,984
- Total Matching Grants Awarded: \$499,995
- Projected New Employees: 51
- New Jobs earning >\$80,000/year: 33



In addition to the \$500,000 in Phase 0/I grants included annually in HTDC's base budget since the 1980s, the agency successfully secured an additional \$1 million in Phase II/III matching funds, which are requested on a year-to-year basis.



## FY25 Phase II/III Impacts

- Applications Received: 11
- Awards Granted: 8
- Total Federal Awards: \$11.43 million
- Total Matching Grants Requested: \$3.56 million
- Total Matching Grants Awarded: \$1 million
- Projected New Employees: 93
- New High-Wage Jobs: 56



# HI-CAP (Hawai‘i Capital Investment Program)

HI-CAP provides critical funding to support growth and scalability of Hawai‘i’s small businesses and startups. Through strategic investments, the program drives innovation, economic development, and job creation.

Since its launch under the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), HTDC has deployed over \$30 million to more than 65 businesses, leveraging \$75 million in total capital and funding four local venture capital funds. HTDC is preparing to apply for the program’s third tranche of \$20 million, anticipated in 2026.



## Technical Assistance Programs

HTDC administers two technical assistance programs under SSBCI to help small businesses access resources, strengthen operations, and improve long-term sustainability.

### SSBCI Technical Assistance Program

- Award Amount: \$792,935
- Supports small, very small, and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI)-owned businesses
- Services: Legal, accounting, financial advisory
- Partners: Hawai‘i Small Business Development Center (HSBDC), Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization, City & County of Honolulu (OER), Young Women’s Christian Association of O‘ahu (YWCA)
- Progress: \$227,240 deployed from Tranche 1; Tranche 2 currently being disbursed

### Small Business Opportunity Program (SBOP) Technical Assistance Program

- Award Amount: \$1,621,552
- Provides training, advisory services, and technical expertise
- Partner: Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- 1** **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS**  
Recruiting experts in finance, legal and accounting to help small businesses apply for federal aid. Get paid up to 20 hours per month to help small businesses in your community.
- 2** **SMALL BUSINESSES TO APPLY FOR AID**  
Recruiting small businesses who are interested in applying for federal aid with the assistance of the technical assistance providers, at no cost to them.
- 3** **HAWAII BUSINESS ACTION NETWORK (PARTNER)**  
Recruiting partners to help us to promote the program and help businesses in your community.

Technology Development Corporation by the DBEDT helps nonprofits access and maximize federal resources.

Or not sure what programs you qualify for, or cost to you.

Its, loans, and business support –

ancy attached to the Department of Business, Employment and Tourism (DBEDT) and focused on developing Hawai‘i’s technology industry. With a mission to support the growth of technology and innovation, HTDC connects talent with opportunities in the state.

**htdc**

# Accelerator & Small Business Training

HTDC funds accelerators, small business and training programs to nurture startups in high-impact sectors, including AgTech, Dual-use technologies, Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Aerospace, and Sustainability.

## FY25 Results

- Total Funding Available: \$1,000,000
- Applications Received: 15
- Total Amount Requested: \$2,606,602
- Awards Granted: 7 (including 2 first-time awardees)
- Programs Focus Areas: CPG, Dual-Use, AgTech, AI, Aerospace, Travel/Tourism Tech, SaaS/Gaming, Sustainability, and Small Business Support
- Cohorts run across O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island



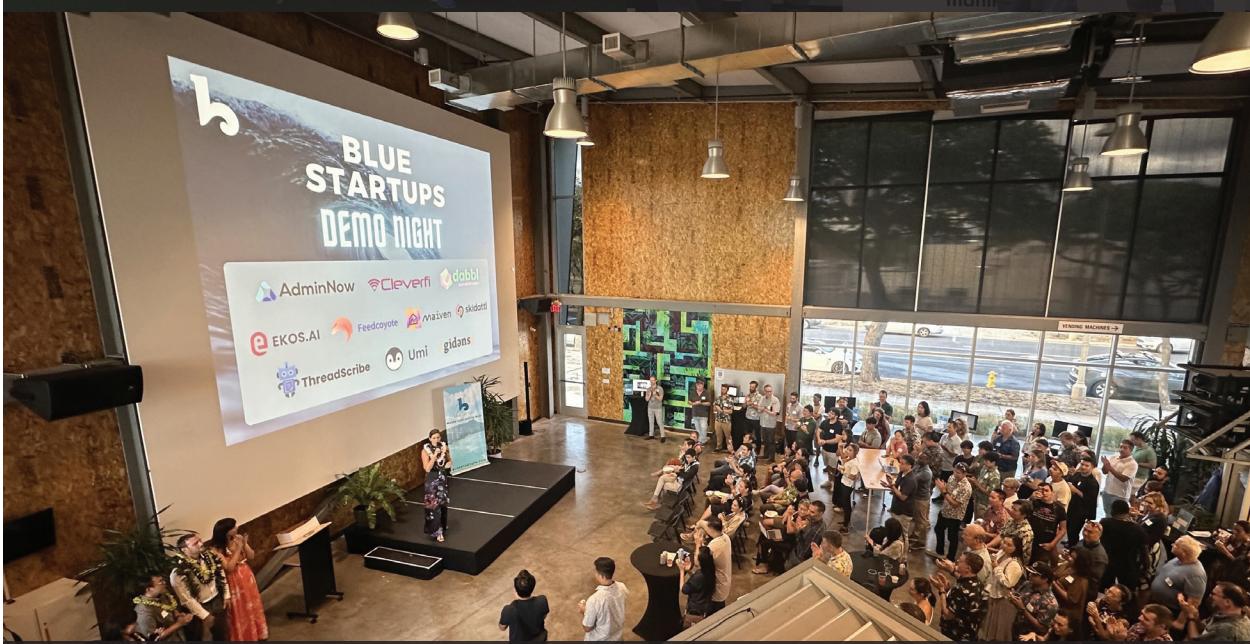
ManaUp, Cohort 10 – June 2025

## Impact of FY24 Programs (completed in FY25)

- Programs Supported: 9
- Cohorts Completed: 19
- Companies Trained: 261
- Jobs Created: 1,646
- Average Funding Provided: \$116,225
- Follow-on Funding Raised: \$50,678,062
- Company Revenue Before Program: \$175,033,207
- Company Revenue 12 Months After Program: \$220,924,841 (+26%)



Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB),  
BusinessSPACE Accelerator, Cohort 1 – May 2025



Blue Startups Demo Night, Cohort 16 - Sept 2024

# Conclusion

Fiscal Year 2025 marks a turning point in the evolution of HTDC. Building upon decades of foundational work, HTDC has entered a new chapter, one that embraces the role of a field catalyst to unify efforts across government, academia, industry, and community toward shared prosperity through innovation.

Across every program HTDC has demonstrated measurable results in advancing Hawai‘i’s innovation economy. This year, over \$31 million was mobilized through federal and state resources, supporting more than 65 small businesses, catalyzing high-wage job creation, and driving new research and development in emerging sectors critical to Hawai‘i’s future.

HTDC’s success in FY25 reflects more than outputs; it reflects alignment. Each initiative from accelerator cohorts and workforce training for women in manufacturing, to the expansion of clean energy and aerospace infrastructure advances a unified mission: ensuring that technology and innovation strengthen Hawai‘i’s economic resilience, cultural integrity, and self-reliance.

As we look ahead to FY26, HTDC will continue to:

- Strengthen strategic sectors critical to Hawai‘i’s economic and technological growth, including aerospace, geothermal, and advanced manufacturing;
- Expand access to capital through the next tranche of SSBCI investments;
- Strengthen the innovation ecosystem through public-private partnerships and feedback groups; and
- Ensure that innovation driven growth benefits all communities and contributes to a sustainable and resilient Hawai‘i

The challenges facing Hawai‘i from climate resilience to workforce retention require collaborative, tech-enabled solutions. HTDC stands ready to convene, coordinate, and catalyze those efforts, ensuring that innovation serves not only economic growth but the well-being of all who call Hawai‘i home.

Mahalo to our partners, staff, and community leaders for their continued commitment and trust. Together, we are building a future where innovation in Hawai‘i is not only globally competitive but deeply rooted in local values.



# Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Summary

## Receipts

Category	General Fund	Federal Funds/Other	Total
Appropriation/Receipts/Draws	\$1,697,392	\$23,429,871	\$25,127,263
Special Programs - HSBIR Phase II Grant	\$1,000,000	—	\$1,000,000
Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP) Grant	\$1,000,000	—	\$1,000,000
Accelerator Grant	\$1,000,000	—	\$1,000,000
Geothermal Project	\$3,000,000	—	\$3,000,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$7,697,392</b>	<b>\$23,429,871</b>	<b>\$31,127,263</b>

## Disbursement

Category	General Fund	Federal Funds/Other	Total
HSBIR Phase II Grant	\$1,000,000	—	\$1,000,000
MAP Grant	\$1,000,000	—	\$1,000,000
Accelerator Grant	\$1,000,000	—	\$1,000,000
Geothermal Project	\$2,760,000	—	\$2,760,000
Operations/Contracts	\$1,290,264	\$23,036,438	\$24,326,702
SBIR 0 / 1 Programs	—	\$499,995	\$499,995
Federally Funded Projects	\$27,650	\$221,524	\$249,174
Sponsorships	\$17,933	\$2,483	\$20,416
Events	\$8,000	\$44,500	\$52,500
<b>Total Disbursement</b>	<b>\$7,697,392</b>	<b>\$23,304,945</b>	<b>\$31,002,337</b>

## Summary

In FY25, HTDC managed a combined total of \$31.1 million in receipts and \$31.0 million in disbursements across its state and federal programs. Funding supported initiatives in SBIR, INNOVATE Hawai‘i, Accelerators, and Geothermal Development, while also covering operational needs and public-private innovation events. HTDC maintained fiscal discipline while strategically investing in programs that deliver measurable outcomes strengthening Hawai‘i’s innovation infrastructure, manufacturing competitiveness, and clean energy leadership.

# Board of Directors

<b>Craig Nakanishi</b>	Chair	Cades Schutte LLP
<b>Matthew Sullivan</b>	Vice Chair	Oceanit
<b>Edward Barnabas</b>	Board Member	Booz Allen Hamilton
<b>Jaclyn Kaina</b>	Board Member	Kauai Economic Development Board (KEDB)
<b>Gregory R. Kim</b>	Board Member	Vantage Counsel LLC
<b>Vassilis Syrmos</b>	Ex Officio Board Member	Research and Innovation, University of Hawai'i System
<b>Gregory Uehara</b>	Board Member	Consultant, Alert Core
<b>Kelly Ueoka</b>	Board Member	PACXA
<b>Dane Wicker</b>	Ex Officio Board Member	Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)

*The grant metrics reported were prepared in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statute 206M3.5 and 206M-15.1 and the HiGrowth report per 206M-72. The annual report required by each of these statutes have been combined into this single comprehensive report.*



## **Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation**

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