

Written Statement of
Trung Lam, Executive Director

before the
House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 2, 2026
2:00 pm
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 1614 HD 1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1614 HD1.

HTDC supports the amendments in HB1614 HD1 that prioritize:

- (A) Federal grants that leverage state funds at a ratio of at least one to five; and
- (B) Proposals that are projected to generate state revenues.

The inclusion of a minimum 1:5 leverage ratio for federal grants is a strong policy signal. Hawai'i must compete aggressively for federal resources, particularly in sectors such as ocean technology, space, advanced manufacturing, bio manufacturing, and climate resilience. A five-to-one leverage threshold ensures that limited state dollars are deployed strategically to unlock significantly larger pools of federal funding. In practice, this approach can multiply the impact of state appropriations and reduce long-term reliance on general funds.

This standard also aligns with HTDC's role as a field catalyst—positioning the State to secure competitive awards from agencies such as the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, NOAA, NSF, and others. In an era of heightened federal investment in domestic manufacturing and dual-use technologies, clear leverage expectations are both fiscally responsible and economically strategic.

With respect to the requirement that proposals be “projected to generate state revenues,” HTDC supports the intent but respectfully requests clarification. Clear statutory or administrative guidance will help ensure consistent evaluation and avoid unintended disqualification of high-impact projects that generate meaningful but delayed returns.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully urge your continued support of this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 2, 2026, at 2:00PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

RE: HB1614 HD1 Relating to Economic Development

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 1614 House Draft 1 (HB1614 HD1) which establishes the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation Revolving Fund for the purpose of financing the State's matching contributions required by federal grants.

HB1614 HD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Small Business. This bill emphasizes strengthening Hawaii's small business ecosystem by expanding access to capital, supporting innovation and technology adoption, and enabling local entrepreneurs to compete in global markets.

HTDC has a strong history of supporting local entrepreneurs, helping small businesses commercialize new technologies and participate in emerging markets, while also advancing manufacturing capacity and innovation across the state. These efforts are delivered through a range of business assistance, research commercialization, and industry-support programs. However, many of the federal opportunities that support innovation-driven small businesses require timely state participation, and existing funding mechanisms do not always align with federal award schedules. As a result, Hawai'i risks missing opportunities to secure outside investment that could otherwise strengthen local companies and advance economic diversification.

HB 1614 HD1 addresses this challenge by creating a flexible funding mechanism that allows the state to respond in a timely manner when federal awards are secured. By improving Hawai'i's ability to leverage federal dollars, this measure would expand the impact of public investment, support small business growth, and enhance competitiveness in research, technology, and advanced manufacturing fields.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 1614 House Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to

foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.



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March 2, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1614, HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1614, which establishes the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation Revolving Fund for the purpose of financing the State's matching contributions required by federal grants.

Access to capital remains one of the most significant barriers facing Hawai'i's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural entrepreneurs, particularly when attempting to leverage federal grant opportunities that require state matching funds.

HB 1614, HD1 establishes a revolving fund within the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation to provide timely state matching funds for eligible federal grants. We appreciate that the bill addresses a long-standing misalignment between federal grant timelines and the State's budgeting process, which has resulted in missed opportunities to draw down federal dollars.

For agriculture, federal grants often support research, manufacturing, value-added processing, food systems development, and adoption of technology. Programs administered by HTDC have historically helped agricultural producers and value-added food businesses expand markets, increase revenue, and improve competitiveness. Ensuring that the State can provide required matching funds strengthens Hawai'i's ability to compete for these federal resources.

We appreciate that funds may only be allocated after a federal award requiring a state match has been secured, and that priority is given to grants that significantly leverage

state dollars and are projected to generate measurable economic return. This structure helps safeguard state resources while maximizing the return on public investment.

By improving the State's capacity to leverage federal funding, HB 1614, HD1 supports economic diversification, innovation, and long-term growth across sectors, including agriculture. We respectfully urge the Committee to support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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Executive Officers

Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Chair*
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Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Advisor*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Finance
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 2, 2026
TIME: 2pm

RE: HB1614 HD1 Relating to Economic Development
Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to the establishment of a revolving fund, to be used and administered by the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to finance the State's matching contributions required by federal grants supporting innovation, technology, research, and manufacturing initiatives.

Many of our member businesses have successfully utilized HTDC programs to do things like increase manufacturing capacity, upgrade equipment, increase efficiency, and become technologically enabled.

Providing state funding for HTDC to continue this work will ensure that more Hawaii companies have the opportunity to utilize these programs to grow and thrive. Supporting the growth and advancement of these companies leads to a more diverse, more technologically agile, and stronger economy for us all. We urge the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Small Kine Farm

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Statement of
Fung Yang President Small Kine Farm
before the
ECD

Monday, Mar 2nd, 2026

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of

HB1614

RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee.

Small Kine Farm **supports** HB1614 that appropriates monies to HTDC for positions in support of the HTDC Revolving Fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants awarded to HTDC that support innovation, technology, research, and manufacturing initiatives.

HTDC core programs develop infrastructure, capital, and talent to facilitate the development of technology and manufacturing jobs in Hawai'i. Following their mission, HTDC programs aim to provide technical and financial support for innovative small businesses from the startup stage through growth and export.

My company is the only USDA Certified organic mushroom farm in the State. HTDC has helped us to start and stay competitive from the very beginning. I am hoping to see more small businesses who can benefit from their help with more staff and more funding. They are playing an important role in our economy. I am currently employing 5 full time and 1 part time workers at the farm. Last year revenue was \$350,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

HB-1614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:53:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paolo Vidali	Hidden Gears LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Statement of

Paolo Vidali

CEO

Hidden Gears LLC

before the

House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 2, 2026

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of

HB1614 HD1

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Hidden Gears **SUPPORTS** HB1614 HD1 because it establishes a dedicated revolving fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants, directly supporting their mission to accelerate research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing initiatives across the islands. The creation of a revolving fund will enhance HTDC's capacity to leverage federal grant opportunities that support the growth of Hawai'i's tech economy. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, the bill strengthens Hawai'i's competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises.

As long time collaborators with HTDC as part of the vital Honolulu tech economy, we continue to support their work as critical to economic development.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



AI.FISH

TO: Representative Todd, Chair, Committee on Finance
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
FROM: Jimmy Freese, CEO, Ai.Fish
RE: H.B. 1614 HD1 – Relating to Economic Development
HEARING DATE: March 2, 2026

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am Jimmy Freese, CEO of Ai.Fish, a Hawai'i-based ocean technology company that uses AI-powered computer vision and electronic monitoring systems for fisheries management and marine conservation. Ai.Fish strongly supports HB1614 HD1.

Over seven years, HTDC has been a critical partner for Ai.Fish — from commercialization support to helping us compete for federal funding. We have seen firsthand how federal grant opportunities can stall when state matching funds are not available on the timeline federal agencies require. Having a reliable, ready source of matching funds means Hawai'i does not lose out on federal dollars due to process delays.

Ai.Fish works closely with the University of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Longline Association, and we export our technology worldwide. We are committed to hiring locally — including UH graduates currently on our team — and to bringing Hawai'i-raised talent back home from the mainland. A strong HTDC with predictable access to federal matching funds helps ensure that companies like ours can keep growing from Hawai'i rather than being forced to relocate.

We urge the Committee to pass HB1614 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Freese
CEO and Co-Founder
Ai.Fish



March 2, 2026

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair; Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Committee Members
Public Hearing, March 2, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**Testimony of William F. Anonsen, Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group
In Support of H.B. 1614 HD1, Relating to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation**

My name is William F. Anonsen, Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group and a Councilmember of the Hawai'i Pacific Export Council (HPEC). I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of H.B. 1614, H.D. 1, which establishes the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) Revolving Fund to finance the State's matching contributions required by federal grants supporting innovation, technology, research, and manufacturing initiatives.

This is a prudent, forward-looking policy tool that helps to strengthen Hawai'i's competitiveness in securing federal investment. Federal programs frequently require state matches ranging from one-to-one to one-to-five. However, Hawai'i's current budget process does not always align with federal award timelines, placing significant federal funding opportunities at risk. The House Committee on Economic Development & Technology recognized that this measure ensures consistent, predictable access to matching funds so that Hawai'i does not forfeit critical federal investment.

From an economic resilience standpoint, this bill is timely and strategic. Hawai'i must continue diversifying beyond a narrow economic base by strengthening innovation, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, ocean industries, and technology commercialization. Federal grants often serve as catalytic capital, supporting workforce development, pilot projects, research commercialization, and small business growth. A dedicated revolving fund enhances the State's ability to compete successfully for these opportunities.

Importantly, H.B. 1614, H.D. 1 includes prudent fiscal safeguards. Funds are allocated only upon the formal award of a qualifying federal grant that requires a state match. The revolving structure ensures non-lapsing funds, accountability, and annual reporting to the Legislature on balances, matched grants, state contributions, and economic impact

In today's competitive federal funding environment, states that demonstrate committed matching capacity are far more successful in securing awards. Establishing this revolving fund signals that Hawai'i intends to compete effectively and position itself for long-term economic growth and resilience.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal
THE MARITIME GROUP



Statement of
Valerie Harmon
Founder and CEO
Namaka Algae, Inc.
before the
House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 2, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 1614
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Namaka Algae, Inc. **SUPPORTS** HB1614 HD1 because it establishes a dedicated revolving fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants, directly supporting their mission to accelerate research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing initiatives across the islands. The creation of a revolving fund will enhance HTDC's capacity to leverage federal grant opportunities that support the growth of Hawai'i's tech economy. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, the bill strengthens Hawai'i's competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises.

Namaka Algae, Inc. is a technology first company focused on low-cost algae biomass for fish superfoods. We produce in Hawaii for Hawaii markets and plan to expand to the US mainland and globally for larger market access and profitability. Aquaculture has the potential to provide efficient, low carbon footprint protein to feed our growing populations, and at Namaka we aim to support the growth of this industry by providing quality, reliable and nutritious feed ingredients made from microalgae. We support HTDCs programs which benefit our company greatly. The focus on Marine and Ocean tech and industries is vital to continue the growth and expansion of our industries to support job growth, and ultimately improved food security for our Islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Aloha,

Valerie Harmon



Statement of
Bernard Mendez
Co-Founder
Black Sand Solutions LLC
before the
House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 2, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB1614 HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Black Sand Solutions LLC SUPPORTS HB1614 HD1 because it establishes a dedicated revolving fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants, directly supporting their mission to accelerate research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing initiatives across the islands. The creation of a revolving fund will enhance HTDC's capacity to leverage federal grant opportunities that support the growth of Hawai'i's tech economy. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, the bill strengthens Hawai'i's competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises.

Black Sand Solutions LLC conducts R&D and commercialization work that depends on leveraging federal programs (including SBIR/STTR and other competitive grant opportunities). In practice, the availability and timing of state match often determines whether a project can be proposed and executed on schedule. A dedicated revolving fund would allow HTDC to provide matching support quickly when it is required at proposal submission or early in project execution. That speed matters: many federal opportunities have short windows, and delays can cost Hawai'i companies awards that would otherwise bring new dollars and technical work to the state. Timely, flexible matching would help small firms compete for more federal awards, deepen collaborations with local partners, and accelerate the transition of R&D into products and services that strengthen Hawai'i's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO 1614 HD1, RELATING TO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Position: **Support**

To Representative Chris Todd, Chair; Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony in **strong support** of this bill, and its intentions to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Technology and Development Corporation to be used in a revolving fund to support the Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) matching funding program.

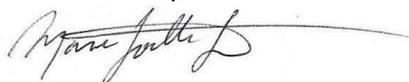
Simonpietri Enterprises LLC is an O'ahu-based small business developing innovative ways to recycle waste generated in Hawai'i into renewable fuels and other beneficial recycled-material products for use in Hawai'i. We strongly support the HTDC's matching funding programs and, as a previous awardee, SEL recognizes the matching funds program as a powerful way to multiply the State's funding to accelerate innovation and facilitate local manufacturing investment. The requirement to match funding to federal funds awards in the HSBIR program is a prudent way to leverage federal agency technical expertise and reward innovation while maintaining a level playing field.

In the 5+ years since launching our Aloha Carbon technology and project development effort with our first-ever SBIR award from the USDA, we have grown our team from one to ten skilled science, engineering and other industry adjacent positions, matured our innovations from concept to pilot scale, and secured a site in Campbell Industrial Park to be the future home for Aloha Carbon. We used the HSBIR funds in areas that the federal funds cannot cover: to support workforce development efforts through paid internships, five of whom are University of Hawaii undergraduate interns, three of whom are now full-time employees on our team. We also applied for and received our first-ever patent and now are now working on four international patents.

We are currently designing a small manufacturing facility, the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (Aloha SMRFF) in Campbell Industrial Park in Kapolei. Aloha SMRFF will serve as a pilot to Aloha Carbon and will divert over 200 tons per day of construction and demolition waste from the state's only C&D landfill, and remanufacture that waste to displace over 10,000 tons per year of imported fossil fuels, fertilizers, and building materials. Thanks in part to the assistance from HTDC and HSBIR, we were able to compete at the national level and win a \$4 million manufacturing grant from the USDA, to build the Aloha Fertilizer manufacturing line of our Aloha SMRFF project. State matching funds like the ones provided by HTDC allow us to actually bring in these federal funds and build this facility to employ 2 dozen skilled workers. This facility is the first step to demonstrating our Aloha Carbon manufacturing process to manufacture pipeline-quality renewable fuel from solid waste generated in Honolulu.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure, and urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Marie-Joelle Simonpietri

President

About Simonpietri Enterprises LLC

Simonpietri Enterprises is a Kailua, Hawaii-based woman- and veteran-owned small business with ten employees, focused on technical innovation and first-of-kind project development of emerging clean and renewable technologies. Since founding in 2006, we have helped dozens of small and large industrial companies in Hawaii, the continental U.S., Australia, and Canada improve the environmental and economic sustainability of their operations through technical and business advice in renewable energy conversion, waste reduction and re-use, and greenhouse gas lifecycle impact reduction. Simonpietri Enterprises' founder and employees have participated in the strategy, planning, design, financing, development, construction, and energy efficiency/greenhouse gas reduction/sustainability renovation for over \$400 million in new renewable and first-of-kind sustainable fuel projects over the past 15 years. Since launching the Aloha Carbon waste-to-fuel technical development process in August 2020, Simonpietri Enterprises is now developing renewable fuel production facilities in its own right, starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF) in Kapolei, Hawaii to divert wastes generated in Honolulu from landfilling and transform it to renewable fuel, organic fertilizer, and recycled-material building products.

Statement of
Jesse Rodriguez
Founder
NeuroMuse LLC
before the
House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 2, 2026

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB1614 HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

NeuroMuse LLC SUPPORTS HB1614 HD1 because it establishes a dedicated revolving fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants, directly supporting their mission to accelerate research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing initiatives across the islands. The creation of a revolving fund will enhance HTDC's capacity to leverage federal grant opportunities that support the growth of Hawai'i's tech economy. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, the bill strengthens Hawai'i's competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises.

NeuroMuse LLC is a Hawai'i-based technology company developing advanced augmented reality (AR) smartglass platforms and workforce innovation tools through the ELARA™ system and MuseOS™ platform. Our work focuses on workforce training, emergency

response, logistics, healthcare support, and STEM education applications that align directly with Hawai'i's innovation and economic diversification goals.

HTDC programs and SBIR matching support are critical for small technology companies like ours to compete for federal research funding. These programs enable local startups to remain in Hawai'i while building high-technology solutions, creating skilled workforce opportunities, and collaborating with local educational institutions such as Kapi'olani Community College and University of Hawai'i partners.

Through participation in SBIR pathways and workforce development initiatives, NeuroMuse LLC is actively engaging Hawai'i students in applied engineering, prototyping, and advanced manufacturing experiences leading up to public demonstrations and workforce training events. Support for HB1614 HD1 strengthens Hawai'i's innovation ecosystem by helping local companies transition research into real-world products, attract federal investment, and create future-ready jobs within the state.

For these reasons, NeuroMuse LLC strongly supports HB1614 HD1 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Nicholas Ulm. I am the CEO and Founder of Hawaii Ocean Power Solutions (HOPS). My company produces Hālonā WEC, which is a wave energy buoy that aims to reduce the cost of powering our local blue economy activities. The buoy produces power on the same principles that makes the Hālonā blowhole spout and was developed as a part of my PhD at the University of Hawaii.

Hawai'i Ocean Power Solutions (HOPS) respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of **HB1614**. This revolving fund, expanded to support federal grants to match the 20% requirement that some projects require could unlock opportunities that would be immensely beneficial to our state, while helping small local businesses and tech innovators like HOPS, who are unable to meet the 20% match for larger projects. It is difficult for small local businesses like mine to raise funding, and the funding that is typically available results in our companies being bought out by continental interests to meet matching requirements for large capital projects. These are projects that could benefit our state, such as federally funded wave-powered aquaculture or hurricane monitoring programs. As a company, when our funders impose competing interests, we are urged to bring these projects and the revenues outside the state of Hawaii.

I grew up here on Oahu. I do not want to see my company have to send jobs, equity, and revenue outside the state. I want to hire the people I grew up with as much as possible because I have dedicated my life to meeting our state's energy and food security needs. Help local innovators like me keep our projects and our ideas here. We know there are millions of federal dollars allocated to deploy marine energy projects under the recent federal legislation. My company wants to propose projects, like ones we recently developed to set up wave energy farms in Hawaii to power sustainable fish farming practices like Blue Ocean Mariculture, so we can sustainably eat the native species we grew up with. We want to propose projects to create a network of wave-powered hurricane monitoring stations for our state, to know exactly when and where the next major hurricane will land. This bill makes it possible for us to confidently apply for every opportunity that arises, knowing that we won't have to pick and choose what looks the best to continental investors, but rather what is in our state's best interest.

Mahalo,

Nicholas Ulm



Statement of
Isar Mostafanezhad, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO
Nalu Scientific, LLC

Before the
House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 2, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In Consideration of
HB1614 HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Nalu Scientific, LLC SUPPORTS HB1614 HD1, which establishes a dedicated revolving fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants supporting research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing initiatives across Hawai'i.

As a Honolulu-based company focused on semiconductor design and advanced electronics system design and development, Nalu Scientific develops high-speed integrated circuits and sensing technologies serving medical imaging, aerospace, national security, and scientific research markets. Our work depends heavily on federal research funding and competitive grant opportunities.

Our products and services compete at a national or international level. Federal grants often require timely state matching funds given the high cost of living in Hawaii. Without a reliable and responsive mechanism to provide these matches, Hawaii companies can lose significant federal funding opportunities to other states with stronger and dynamic matching infrastructures. Establishing a revolving fund strengthens the State's ability to leverage outside capital and multiply the impact of public investment.

For companies like Nalu Scientific, access to state matching support would:

- Increase competitiveness for federal R&D awards



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ENABLING INNOVATION

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- Accelerate commercialization of locally developed technologies
- Support high-wage engineering and technical jobs in Hawai'i
- Expand advanced manufacturing capabilities within the State

Each federal dollar secured brings new investment into Hawai'i's economy, diversifies revenue beyond tourism, and strengthens long-term economic resilience.

By creating a flexible revolving fund, HB1614 HD1 enhances Hawai'i's ability to compete nationally for innovation funding and ensures local companies can scale and grow from within the State.

Nalu Scientific respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB1614 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.