

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

My name is **Dr. Arif Rahman**, and I am the **CEO** of **Hawaii Innovation Inc.**, a small business in Honolulu working on deep-technology solutions in energy and biotechnology. I am testifying in strong support of SB 3084 SD1, relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

Our company is exactly the kind of business this bill is designed to help. We work on long-term, high-risk, high-impact research problems that private investors are often reluctant to fund at early stages. Historically, federal programs like the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs have filled this gap, especially at agencies such as the Department of Energy and other mission-driven federal organizations. These programs have been a crucial pipeline for turning early ideas into viable technologies and companies.

However, since the recent lapse and uncertainty around federal authorization and funding for SBIR and related research programs, there has been a serious disruption in the flow and timing of awards. Many solicitations have been delayed, paused, or reduced. For small companies like ours, this does not just mean slower growth; it can mean layoffs, cancelled projects, or shutting down entirely. In sectors like clean energy and advanced biotechnology, where research timelines are measured in years, any multi-month disruption is extremely damaging.

At the same time, our competitors overseas, backed by strong industrial policies and national research programs are not slowing down. Companies in Europe and Asia often receive sustained public support to move technologies from lab to market. When Hawaii-based firms cannot access timely federal research support, we fall behind in areas like grid modernization, energy storage, advanced materials, and biomedical innovation. That hurts not only local companies, but also national competitiveness and energy security.

SB 3084 SD1 is a practical, targeted way for Hawaii to respond to this instability. By allowing HTDC to extend its support beyond SBIR/STTR to other qualifying federal research and development awards, and to provide matching funds when federal agencies require a non-federal cost share, this bill does three important things:

1. It helps Hawaii businesses stay in the game when federal opportunities arise, by making sure that a lack of match funding does not force us to walk away from competitive awards.
2. It stabilizes our research and development ecosystem during periods when federal policy is uncertain, so that local companies can retain talent, continue long-term projects, and keep building capacity instead of stopping and starting.
3. It leverages every state dollar to bring in multiple federal dollars, amplifying the impact of Hawaii's investment while growing high-wage, STEM-based jobs here at home instead of losing them to the mainland or overseas.

From an engineer's and scientist's perspective, deep-tech innovation is not optional for Hawaii. It is central to solving our energy resilience challenges, managing our fragile island environment, and building a more diversified, knowledge-based economy. Small research-driven companies are often the ones doing the early, risky work—developing new materials, novel energy systems, and technologies that later become the foundation for larger industries.

Without tools like those in SB 3084 SD1, many of these efforts will stall at the most vulnerable point: after proof-of-concept but before private investors are willing to commit. This “valley of death” is precisely where HTDC's expanded authority to provide grants and matching funds can make the difference between a breakthrough technology launching in Hawaii—or never leaving the lab, and being overtaken by a foreign competitor.

For these reasons, on behalf of Hawaii Innovation Inc. and the broader community of small, research-intensive businesses in the state, I respectfully urge you to pass SB 3084 SD1. It is a fiscally efficient, strategically important step to protect Hawaii's innovation capacity, support local jobs, and keep our state aligned with national priorities in energy, resilience, and advanced technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.



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

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:31 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB3084 SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) submits this testimony in **strong support** of SB3084 SD1, which strengthens Hawai'i's ability to leverage federal research and development funding to support innovation, commercialization, and economic diversification.

SB3084 SD1 expands the allowable uses of Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) grant funds to include:

- (1) providing grants to applicants for qualifying federal research and development awards; and
- (2) providing matching funds for recipients of those federal awards and related contracts.

This statutory clarification is important. Federal research programs, including the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, are highly competitive and bring significant external capital and technical validation into Hawai'i. However, companies often require additional state-level support

to successfully compete for these awards and to advance projects beyond the research phase toward commercialization.

By explicitly authorizing grants for applicants and matching funds for award recipients, SB3084 SD1 allows the State to more effectively amplify federal dollars, reduce financial barriers for Hawai'i-based companies, and increase the likelihood that innovative businesses will grow and remain in Hawai'i. This approach reflects national best practices in technology-based economic development and is particularly important for small businesses operating in capital-intensive sectors.

From DBEDT's perspective, SB3084 SD1 represents a high-leverage investment strategy that supports job creation, workforce development, and long-term economic resilience. The bill also provides clarity and flexibility for HTDC to administer these grants responsibly and in alignment with statewide economic priorities.

For these reasons, DBEDT strongly supports SB3084 SD1.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 3084 SD1  
RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Nalu Scientific

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Nalu Scientific supports S.B. 3084 SD1 to expand the allowable uses of grant funds administered by the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to include providing matching funds for qualifying federal research and development awards. Our support is based on the following:

- Federal R&D dollars should not be left on the table. Many federal programs require or strongly favor applicants that can demonstrate secured matching funds. Without a state match mechanism, Hawai'i companies are less competitive.
- Matching funds multiply state investment. A modest state match can unlock significantly larger federal awards, bringing new external capital into Hawai'i's economy.
- Innovation companies compete nationally. States with structured matching programs consistently achieve higher success rates in SBIR, STTR, and other federal R&D competitions.
- Commercialization requires early leverage. Matching funds accelerate the transition from federally funded research to market-ready products, supporting revenue growth and job creation.
- Companies such as Nalu Scientific, LLC develop advanced semiconductor and sensor technologies serving medical imaging, aerospace, and national security markets. Access to state-supported matching funds would directly enhance our ability to secure federal awards, expand engineering roles, and scale advanced manufacturing activity within Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Isar Mostafanezhad  
Founder and CEO  
Nalu Scientific



Written Statement of  
**DR. PATRICK SULLIVAN**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, OCEANIT**

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:31 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In Support of  
**SB3084 SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

To: Chair Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki and  
Members of the Committee  
From: Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Founder & CEO, OCEANIT  
Re: Testimony in Support of SB3084 SD1

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki and Committee Members:

Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. offers this testimony in support of SB3084 SD1 with a proposed amendment to ensure the bill preserves its intended focus on small businesses.

Oceanit is a Hawaii-based science and engineering company that has been developing breakthrough technologies in Hawaii for 40 years. We have been active participants in federal SBIR and STTR programs and understand firsthand how critical state matching funds are to helping Hawaii's small businesses compete for and successfully execute federal research and development awards.

We support this bill's intent to expand HTDC's authority to provide matching grants for a broader range of federal R&D programs beyond SBIR and STTR. Federal agencies including ARPA-E, DOE, NOAA, and DoD increasingly offer competitive R&D funding opportunities that require non-federal matching funds. Enabling HTDC to support Hawaii businesses pursuing these opportunities will help our state's innovation ecosystem remain competitive and capture federal investment that might otherwise go to other states.

While we support expanding HTDC's matching fund authority, we note that the current bill language in subsections (b)(4) and (b)(5) refers broadly to "any business in Hawaii" without specifying a small business qualification. This differs from subsections (b)(1) through (b)(3), which are inherently limited to small businesses by virtue of their reference to SBIR and STTR programs.

To preserve the legislature's apparent intent to focus these resources on small businesses, we respectfully suggest adding a new subsection (c) with the following language:

*"(c) For purposes of subsection (b)(4) and (b)(5), an eligible business shall:*

- (1) Be organized for profit with a place of business located in Hawaii;*
- (2) Be more than fifty per cent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States; and*
- (3) Have no more than five hundred employees, including the employees of any affiliates."*

This language mirrors the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Small Business Administration for SBIR participation under 13 C.F.R. § 121.702, ensuring consistency with existing federal standards while giving the legislature direct control over eligibility criteria.

We believe this amendment strengthens the bill by clarifying legislative intent and ensuring that HTDC's expanded matching fund authority continues to serve Hawaii's small business innovation community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-3084-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:38:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Seiichi Nagai	Testifying for CivicNexus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Statement of  
Seiichi Nagai  
CEO  
CivicNexus  
before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:31 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
SB 3084 SD1 RELATING TO HAWAI‘I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

CivicNexus SUPPORTS SB3084 SD1 because it expands the allowable uses of HTDC’s grant funds to include providing matching funds for applicants and recipients of qualifying federal research and development (R&D) awards. The proposed expansion of grant eligibility will enable HTDC to better leverage other federal R&D programs along with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. By providing matching funds, HTDC can help local companies attract and maximize federal investment, encourage the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies, and strengthen Hawai‘i’s competitiveness. National best practices show that state matching programs can increase the success rate of federal grant applications and promote the growth of high-impact technology startups.

CivicNexus is dedicated to empowering civic engagement and supporting technology-driven solutions that make government more accessible and effective. As a company working at the intersection of artificial intelligence and legislative technology, we recognize the importance of robust support for local tech businesses and researchers. SB3084 SD1 is relevant to our mission because it proposes to expand the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation’s grant-making authority, enabling greater access to matching funds for federal research and development awards—an essential catalyst for innovation in Hawaii’s technology sector.

By allowing HTDC grant funds to be used as matching funds for federal R&D awards, the bill addresses a common barrier faced by technology startups and small businesses: the challenge of meeting match requirements to unlock federal resources. This change would help level the playing field for local companies, including those working in artificial intelligence and other emerging fields, by making it easier to leverage outside investment and accelerate product development. Such support aligns with best practices in economic development, which emphasize the value of public-private partnerships and targeted investment in high-growth industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**SB-3084-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:15:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

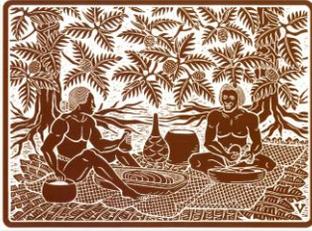
Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

I support SB3084 SD1 because it expands the allowable uses of HTDC’s grant funds to include providing matching funds for applicants and recipients of qualifying federal research and development (R&D) awards. The proposed expansion of grant eligibility will enable HTDC to better leverage other federal R&D programs along with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. By providing matching funds, we can help local companies attract and maximize federal investment, encourage the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies, and strengthen Hawai‘i’s competitiveness. National best practices show that state matching programs can increase the success rate of federal grant applications and promote the growth of high-impact technology startups.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Forest Frizzell



**Malolo Enterprises, Inc.**

**dba Rare Hawaiian Honey Company**

71-1580 Hawaii Belt Rd., Kona, HI 96740

Website: [www.rarehawaiianhoney.com](http://www.rarehawaiianhoney.com)

Statement of  
Michael Domeier  
Owner  
Malolo Enterprises, Inc  
DBA: Rare Hawaiian Honey Company, Sweet Aloha Honey

before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:31 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3084 SD1**  
**RELATING TO HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Malolo Enterprises, Inc., **SUPPORTS** SB3084 SD1 because it expands the allowable uses of HTDC's grant funds to include providing matching funds for applicants and recipients of qualifying federal research and development (R&D) awards. The proposed expansion of grant eligibility will enable HTDC to better leverage other federal R&D programs along with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. By providing matching funds, we can help local companies attract and maximize federal investment, encourage the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies, and strengthen Hawai'i's competitiveness. National best practices show that state matching programs can increase the success rate of federal grant applications and promote the growth of high-impact technology startups.

HTDC plays an important role in the state of Hawaii, by administering grant programs that nurture local businesses. This is particularly important as our businesses continue to face economic challenges due to the ever increasing overhead pressure that comes with living and working in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

*A Taste of Hawaii*

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO 3084, SD1 RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Position: **Support**

To the honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; the honorable Senator Sharon Morikawa Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Ways & Means:

Please accept this testimony in **strong support** of this bill, and its intentions to expand the allowable use of funds of the Hawaii Technology and Development Corporation to be used 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.

Written Statement of  
**Trung Lam, Executive Director**

before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

< Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:31 am  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
SB3084 SD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) strongly supports SB3084 SD1. While HTDC's SBIR and STTR matching programs have been successful in increasing federal participation and commercialization activity in Hawai'i, they represent only a portion of the federal R&D landscape. Agencies such as the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, NOAA, NASA, and others offer competitive R&D opportunities outside of SBIR/STTR. Many of these programs require non-federal cost share or matching funds. For early-stage Hawai'i companies—particularly in high-growth sectors such as space, ocean, advanced manufacturing, and dual-use technologies—these match requirements can present a significant barrier to entry.

SB3084 SD1 addresses that gap. By expanding grant eligibility, the State can help local companies leverage substantially larger federal investments, increasing the return on state dollars while strengthening our innovation ecosystem. In practice, a relatively modest state match can unlock multi-year federal awards, attract private capital, retain high-skilled talent, and anchor companies here in Hawai'i rather than forcing them to relocate to jurisdictions with stronger matching mechanisms.

This approach is consistent with HTDC's broader strategy of using public funds to de-risk early-stage innovation, crowd in private and federal capital, and accelerate commercialization in sectors aligned with Hawai'i's strategic advantages—particularly space and ocean technologies.

HTDC looks forward to working with the Legislature on clear guidelines and performance metrics to ensure effective and accountable implementation. We appreciate the Legislature's continued partnership in strengthening Hawai'i's innovation economy and respectfully urge passage of SB3084 SD1.



Statement of  
**JESSE RODRIGUEZ**  
**FOUNDER**  
**NEUROMUSE LLC**  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:31 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3084 SD1**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

**NEUROMUSE LLC SUPPORTS** SB3084 SD1 because it expands the allowable uses of HTDC's grant funds to include providing matching funds for applicants and recipients of qualifying federal research and development (R&D) awards. The proposed expansion of grant eligibility will enable HTDC to better leverage other federal R&D programs along with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. By providing matching funds, we can help local companies attract and maximize federal investment, encourage the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies, and strengthen Hawaii's competitiveness. National best practices show that state matching programs can increase the success rate of federal grant applications and promote the growth of high-impact technology startups.

NeuroMuse™ LLC is a Hawaii-based emerging technology company focused on augmented reality (AR) systems, workforce innovation tools, and dual-use smart wearable platforms. We are currently collaborating with Kapi'olani Community College through the ExLENT workforce development program to support student engineering and technology demonstrations at the upcoming ELARA Workforce Innovation Expo.

As an early-stage technology company, access to federal research and development funding through programs such as SBIR and STTR is critical to accelerating product development, prototyping, and commercialization. State matching support through HTDC would significantly strengthen our ability to compete for federal awards, reduce capital constraints, and expand local hiring opportunities.

NeuroMuse™ is currently in active prototype development and pre-commercialization phases. We are a small but growing company, working with student collaborators and local partners across engineering, manufacturing, and event-based workforce engagement initiatives. Support

through expanded HTDC matching eligibility would directly contribute to increasing our technical capacity, strengthening local supply chain partnerships, and positioning Hawai'i as a leader in next-generation AR and workforce technology systems.

By expanding matching grant eligibility, Hawai'i empowers early-stage innovators to remain and build locally, attract federal R&D dollars into the state, and create high-skill technology jobs within our communities.

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 Halona blowhole spout and was developed as a part of my PhD at the University of Hawaii.

The current federal government has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars to the deployment of marine renewable energy. This technology is innovative and new, requiring research and development. Our state has the only operational wave energy test site in the country. My company and many other marine renewable energy companies here locally may not have the funding needed to meet the match requirements for these federal award opportunities. We are competing with continental companies that do not always have our islands' best interests in mind. We are hiring locally, innovating locally, and respecting the aina. Unlocking the ability for matching grants for federal funds to flow to local innovation projects would be groundbreaking and could help us to meet our state's renewable energy goals. Please support local innovators like me.

We strongly support SB3084.



WaiHome LLC  
59-477 Hoalike Road  
Haleiwa, HI, 96712

Statement of  
Gregory Wong  
Co-Founder and COO  
WaiHome LLC  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026  
10:31 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB3084**  
**RELATING TO HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

WaiHome Strongly Supports SB3084 SD1 because it expands the allowable uses of HTDC's grant funds to include providing matching funds for applicants and recipients of qualifying federal research and development (R&D) awards. The proposed expansion of grant eligibility will enable HTDC to better leverage other federal R&D programs along with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. By providing matching funds, HTDC can help local companies attract and maximize federal investment, encourage the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies, and strengthen Hawai'i's competitiveness. National best practices show that state matching programs can increase the success rate of federal grant applications and promote the growth of high-impact technology startups.

As a direct result of these HTDC programs, WaiHome has been able to:

- Create 4 high-skilled technical jobs from the local workforce;
- Establish a physical office and laboratory space in Hawaii;
- Bridge the critical funding gap between our Phase I and Phase II federal grants from the NSF and NOAA.

Moving forward, we rely on these grants to transition from a research-focused startup to a full-scale manufacturing and wastewater service company. This transition is vital to ensuring Hawaii has locally-produced, cost-effective solutions to meet our 2050 cesspool conversion mandate. Investing in these core HTDC programs is an investment in Hawaii's environmental and economic resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Wong", written in a cursive style.

Gregory Wong  
Co-founder and COO  
WaiHome LLC



**ALOHA SHOYU COMPANY**

Statement of  
David Y. Morikawa  
Vice President - Operations

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 10:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Videoconference**

In consideration of  
**SENATE BILL 3084, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Aloha Shoyu Company, Ltd. **supports** SB 3084, SD1 because it expands the allowable uses of the HTDC grant funds to include providing matching funds for applicants and recipients of qualifying federal research and development (R&D) awards. The proposed expansion of grant eligibility will enable HTDC to better leverage other federal R&D programs along with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. By providing matching funds, we can help local companies attract and maximize federal investment, encourage the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies, and strengthen Hawai'i's competitiveness. National best practices show that state matching programs can increase the success rate of federal grant applications and promote the growth of high-impact technology startups.

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.

Our company has received the benefit of partial funding through the manufacturing grant program resulting in plant equipment expansion and upgrades. If the program is extended, we intend to continue utilizing grant funding for equipment upgrades and provide more products to Hawaii and to the mainland.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



# holomua

COLLABORATIVE

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## OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

## OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

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## BOARD MEMBERS

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Meli James, *Board Chair*  
Micah Kāne  
Brandon Kurisu  
Brad Nicolai  
Mike Pietsch  
Sunshine Topping

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Josh Feldman  
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Alicia Moy  
Ed Schultz

Josh Wisch  
*President & Executive Director*

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HolomuaCollaborative.org

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Page 1 of 1

**Committee:** Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
**Bill Number:** SB3084 SD1, Relating to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation  
**Hearing Date and Time:** March 4, 2026, at 10:31am (Room 211)  
**Re:** Testimony of Holomua Collaborative- Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

We write in support of Senate Bill 3084 SD1, Relating to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation. This measure expands the allowable uses of Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) grant funds to include providing grants to applicants for qualifying federal research and development awards and matching funds for recipients of those awards and related contracts.

Holomua supports initiatives that help keep all local working families in Hawai'i by addressing affordability challenges, including the high cost of living and limited economic opportunities. For Hawai'i to be affordable for local working families, we need to ensure that our local business community can expand and succeed in an uncertain economy. The challenges businesses face in thriving in Hawai'i are an unfortunate reality that has permeated public consciousness. *Only 19% of respondents in a recent survey of 3200 local residents agree that "Hawai'i is a good place to do business."* This statement also shows a high percentage of disagreement, with 44 percent *disagreeing* that Hawai'i is a good place to do business. And 9 out of 10 respondents agree that Hawai'i needs to recruit and retain critical workforce members.<sup>1</sup>

SB3084 SD1 is crucial to our mission because it expands the allowable uses of HTDC grant funds, enabling more local businesses and entrepreneurs to access essential federal resources. This can foster the creation of high-quality, living-wage jobs that are vital for keeping kama'āina families rooted in our islands. Expanding HTDC's grant-making authority to provide matching funds for federal R&D awards aligns with best practices in economic and workforce development. By leveraging federal investment, Hawai'i can stimulate innovation and support the growth of local businesses, particularly in emerging industries. These opportunities are vital for diversifying our economy beyond tourism, increasing resilience, and providing career pathways that offer wages capable of supporting local families.

We urge you to support SB3084 SD1.

Sincerely,

Matthew Prellberg  
Policy and Communications Director

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<sup>1</sup> 2025 Affordability Survey, Holomua Collective. [www.holomuacollective.org/survey-25](http://www.holomuacollective.org/survey-25).

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10:31AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**RE: SB3084 SD1 Relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 3084 Senate Draft 1 (SB3084 SD1), which expands the allowable uses of Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation grant funds to include providing grants to applicants for qualifying federal research and development awards and matching funds for recipients of those awards and related contracts.

SB3084 SD1 supports the Economic Action pillar of the Chamber's 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii by facilitating Hawaii's access to federal research and development investments and stimulating private sector innovation. The Economic Action pillar emphasizes strategic investments that enhance competitiveness, broaden Hawaii's economic base, and grow high-value jobs. Expanding HTDC's grant flexibility to support innovators pursuing federal R&D awards aligns with this priority by enabling local firms to compete more effectively for highly competitive national funding and accelerate commercialization of emerging technologies.

SB3084 SD1 also advances our Small Business pillar by providing critical resources to small, locally based companies that may otherwise lack the capital and technical support needed to harness federal research funding opportunities. Many small businesses rely on federal grant programs as a catalyst for growth. This bill directly stimulates Hawaii's innovation ecosystem, by allowing HTDC to preempt opportunities for federal matching grants that serve as a catalyst for innovation and business development.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3084 Senate 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.