

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

before the  
Senate Committee of Economic Development and Tourism

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 pm  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
SB 3166  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Decoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees.

As the state agency charged with advancing technology-based economic development, the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) recognizes the importance of SB3166 in strengthening Hawai'i's innovation ecosystem. The bill's appropriation to establish two permanent positions—an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist and a Marketing and Branding Specialist—directly supports HTDC's mission to position Hawai'i as a leading technology innovation hub, particularly in the space and ocean sectors.

Advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity are critical components for the growth of Hawai'i's technology sector, including the blue economy, aerospace, renewable energy, and research and development initiatives. The addition of a dedicated specialist will enable HTDC to better assist local companies in adopting advanced manufacturing practices and addressing cybersecurity challenges, both of which are increasingly vital for competitiveness and resilience. HTDC is currently working on multiple infrastructure projects related to ocean, aerospace, and bio-material advanced manufacturing that will be incredibly challenging to successfully implement without this position.

Similarly, a full-time marketing and branding specialist will enhance HTDC's capacity to attract investment, promote local innovation, and raise the profile of Hawai'i's technology assets on a global stage.

The creation of these positions aligns with best practices in technology-driven economic development, where targeted expertise and effective outreach are necessary to foster innovation clusters and support commercialization. By investing in these roles, the state can expect improved support for local entrepreneurs, stronger connections to national and international markets, and increased opportunities for workforce development in high-growth sectors.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of a series of overlapping orange and red geometric shapes, creating a modern, abstract pattern.



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**Executive Officers**

**Kit Okimoto**, Okimoto Corp., *Chair*  
**Jayson Watts**, Mahi Pono, *Vice Chair*  
**Jill Tamura**, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Advisor*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 10, 2026

TIME: 1:02pm

RE: SB3166 Relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation

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 strengthen the State's technology and innovation ecosystem by appropriating funds to the Hawaii technology development corporation (HTDC) for the establishment of necessary positions. As the measure notes, HTDC currently lacks sufficient internal capacity to continue to support Hawaii manufacturers, defense-adjacent industries, and emerging technology companies. Effective technology and innovation ecosystem development requires sustained investment in marketing, branding, and outreach to increase awareness of Hawaii's technology programs, attract talent and investment, and ensure participation across all islands. This measure will enable that sustained investment.

Many HFIA members have successfully utilized HTDC programs to grow and thrive and we support this measure so that HTDC can continue their valuable work to help other local companies, and our economy as a whole.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# NORMAL

Normal Corporation - 131 Hekili St, Suite 208, Kailua, Hi 96734 - [airform.space](http://airform.space)

Statement of

**Clara Lee**

**Chief of Staff**

**Normal Corporation**

before the

**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:02 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of

**SB 3166**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

**Normal Corporation** **SUPPORTS SB 3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

**Normal Corporation** is a high technology, advanced manufacturing heat pump start up based on Oahu. We were founded in Kailua in 2022 to provide a solution to Hawaii's manufacturing economy, which is severely limited and too heavily reliant on imports from the mainland and around the world. We are dedicated to building manufacturing capabilities from scratch so that kama'aina can benefit from more affordable cooling and water heating, high quality local jobs, and a smaller carbon footprint. We currently employ over 20 kama'aina, with over 80% being University of Hawaii - Manoa graduates.

# **NORMAL**

Normal Corporation - 131 Hekili St, Suite 208, Kailua, HI 96734 - [airform.space](http://airform.space)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Statement of  
Valerie Harmon  
Founder and CEO  
Namaka Algae, Inc.  
before the

**LATE**

**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3166**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

Nāmaka Algae, Inc. strongly **SUPPORTS SB3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

Nāmaka Algae, Inc. is a technology first company focused on low-cost algae biomass for fish superfoods. We produce in Hawai'i for Hawai'i 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 Nāmaka 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.



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Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in teal ink that reads "Valerie Harmon".

Valerie Harmon



Statement of  
**Carlo Liquido**  
**Executive Director**  
**Pi'ikū Co.**  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3227**  
**RELATING TO HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

Pi'ikū Co. **SUPPORTS SB 3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

Pi'ikū Co. is a Hawai'i-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing work-based learning programs for emerging technology talent. HTDC's capacity to support Hawai'i's tech ecosystem directly impacts our ability to connect graduates with local career opportunities. The marketing and branding specialist position is particularly important to Pi'ikū because raising awareness of Hawai'i's technology programs and opportunities helps our participants see viable career pathways they might not otherwise know exist. The advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity specialist position would strengthen sectors that offer high-quality employment for emerging tech talent, creating more jobs our graduates can fill without leaving the state. Pi'ikū relies on strong ecosystem partners like HTDC to help build the infrastructure, awareness, and industry connections that turn our training programs into sustainable careers. These positions would enhance



HTDC's ability to support the full technology ecosystem that Native Hawaiian and local youth need to thrive professionally in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**SB-3166**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:27:48 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/10/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charlie Field	Testifying for PacMar Technologies	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PacMar Technologies SUPPORTS SB 3166, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii’s position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC’s mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii’s manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

Statement of  
**Nam Vu**  
**Co-Founder**  
**Hub Coworking Hawaii**  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3166**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

Hub Coworking Hawaii **SUPPORTS SB 3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

### **About Hub Coworking Hawaii and the Importance of Specialized HTDC Capacity**

Hub Coworking Hawaii is a locally founded and operated coworking and innovation organization that supports entrepreneurs, startups, consultants, and small businesses across Hawai'i. Our community includes companies operating in technology, advanced manufacturing, professional services, creative industries, and

cybersecurity-adjacent fields that depend on access to expertise, networks, and business support to grow and remain competitive in Hawai'i.

As an ecosystem operator, Hub Coworking Hawaii works closely with early-stage and scaling companies that face common challenges related to technical readiness, market positioning, and operational maturity. Many of these businesses lack in-house capacity in areas such as advanced manufacturing processes, cybersecurity best practices, and strategic marketing and branding, which are increasingly essential for competing in national and global markets.

Establishing dedicated Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC would directly strengthen the support available to the businesses we serve. Technical expertise in manufacturing and cybersecurity would help local companies modernize operations, protect intellectual property, and meet the requirements of government, defense, and enterprise customers. At the same time, marketing and branding support is critical for translating innovation into commercial success, particularly for Hawai'i-based companies seeking to scale beyond the local market.

For Hub Coworking Hawaii and our members, these roles would enhance the effectiveness of HTDC's programs by providing deeper, more targeted guidance that complements existing funding and training initiatives. SB 3166 represents a strategic investment in human capital that would improve coordination, reduce gaps in support, and accelerate the growth of innovation-driven businesses contributing to Hawai'i's economic diversification.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Mahalo,



Nam Vu

**SB-3166**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:44:28 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/10/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony John Escasa	Testifying for Pacific Impact Zone	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF SB3166  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Pacific Impact Zone respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of SB3166, which appropriates funds to establish permanent Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Pacific Impact Zone is actively working with HTDC through a public-private partnership to establish and operate a shared-use advanced manufacturing facility in Hawai‘i. As an operator, we see clearly that facilities, funding, and strategy alone are not sufficient. Execution depends on sustained, internal expertise within HTDC to coordinate ecosystems, support industry, and translate legislative direction into on-the-ground outcomes. SB3166 directly addresses that need.

The Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist position is particularly critical. Advanced manufacturing today requires not only production capability, but alignment with quality standards, cybersecurity requirements, workforce readiness, and federal compliance. These factors are especially important for companies operating in dual-use and defense-adjacent markets. Dedicated internal expertise within HTDC strengthens the State’s ability to support manufacturers as they move from prototyping into production and helps de-risk shared-use manufacturing facilities by ensuring participating companies are better prepared and more competitive.

From our perspective, this role materially improves our ability to stand up and operate a shared advanced manufacturing facility. It enables tighter coordination between HTDC programs and facility operations, improves support for companies executing federally funded work, and helps align manufacturing assistance, workforce development, and cybersecurity readiness with real industry needs.

The Marketing and Branding Specialist position is also essential to successful execution. Shared-use facilities and statewide programs only work if companies know they exist, understand how to access them, and see clear value in participation. Effective outreach, consistent messaging, and

professional ecosystem engagement help ensure utilization, attract partners, and bring additional capital and talent into the state. This role supports the long-term sustainability of public-private partnerships by strengthening demand, visibility, and participation across all islands.

SB3166 complements and enables other legislative efforts focused on innovation and manufacturing. While prior bills provide program authority and funding mechanisms, this bill ensures that HTDC has the internal capacity to implement them effectively. Permanent staff positions provide continuity, institutional knowledge, and accountability that cannot be replicated through short-term contracts or ad hoc support.

In summary, SB3166 is a practical and necessary investment in execution capacity. It strengthens HTDC's ability to support advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity readiness, and ecosystem coordination, and directly supports public-private partnerships like ours that are working to build durable manufacturing infrastructure in Hawai'i. Pacific Impact Zone respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB3166.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Grace Iwashita, Manager – Business Development**  
**Hawaiian King Candies, LLC**  
Before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3166**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

Hawaiian King Candies, LLC **SUPPORTS SB 3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

As a Hawai'i-based manufacturer, we operate in an increasingly competitive and technology-driven environment. Support from HTDC in advanced manufacturing practices, automation, cybersecurity readiness, and market positioning would directly benefit our ability to modernize operations, protect proprietary information, and expand into new markets.

SB 3166 represents a strategic investment in the expertise needed to support local manufacturers and grow high-quality jobs across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



*Hawaii's Finest Macadamia Nuts ~ Chocolates ~ Confections*

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Statement of  
**Batdelger Jaavaa – CFO**  
**Purdyco, Ltd dba Island Princess**  
Before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3166**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

Purdyco, Ltd. **SUPPORTS SB 3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

Purdyco, Ltd. operates agricultural and food manufacturing facilities that depend on secure systems, efficient processing, and strong branding in national and international markets. Access to technical assistance and expertise through HTDC can help local manufacturers adopt best practices, safeguard operations, and remain competitive.

SB 3166 supports long-term economic resilience by investing in the technical infrastructure that Hawai'i manufacturers and agricultural processors need to succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

A Division of Purdyco Ltd.  
2846 Ualena Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1910  
Phone: (808) 839-5222 • Fax: (808) 836-2019 • e-mail: [info@islandprincesshawaii.com](mailto:info@islandprincesshawaii.com)  
Website : [www.IslandPrincessHawaii.com](http://www.IslandPrincessHawaii.com)



Statement of  
**Charna Rae Naeole – General Manager**  
**COHI, Inc. dba Coffees of Hawaii**  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 3166**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism.

COHI, Inc. **SUPPORTS SB 3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity sectors.

The addition of an Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist aligns directly with HTDC's mission to foster economic growth through technology. Hawaii's manufacturing sector, while growing, remains underrepresented compared to national averages, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP versus the U.S. average of 11%. By investing in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity expertise, HTDC can better support local companies in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving supply chain resilience, and mitigating the increasing threat of cyberattacks—a threat that cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion in 2021 alone, according to the FBI.

Our operations include farming, roasting, packaging, and distribution across Hawai'i and beyond. As a vertically integrated company, we benefit from technical guidance on manufacturing efficiencies, data security, and market development. HTDC's expanded expertise will be especially valuable for rural and neighbor island businesses that may not otherwise have access to these resources.

SB 3166 strengthens the support ecosystem for Hawai'i-based producers and manufacturers.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**COHI, Inc.**  
**1630 Farrington Ave., PO Box 37, Kualapuu HI 96757-0037**  
**Tel: 808-567-9490 Fax: 808-567-9180**

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism**

**Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 1:02PM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**LATE**

**RE: SB3166 Relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation**

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 3166 (SB3166), appropriates funds for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions. As a State that hosts all six branches of military and received \$10.2 billion in defense spending (2023), these positions will be crucial in stimulating the innovation that galvanizes national security.

SB3166 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military and Defense. Innovation is of particular importance to this pillar, as our 2030 Blueprint finds that Department of Defense allocations toward Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) have doubled between 2016 and 2023. As cybersecurity and emerging technology fields increasingly rely on advanced capabilities such as artificial intelligence, preparing a skilled, local workforce is essential to support efficiency, cost savings, and mission readiness while reducing risk to human life. Similarly, additive and other technology-based manufacturing capabilities can significantly hasten repair timelines, lower sustainment costs, and improve operational resilience. The investment in innovation represented by SB3166 will allow HTDC to expand its capacity to support cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing industry development, capture trends in institutional spending, and strengthen Hawaii's technology ecosystem through sustained marketing, outreach, and promotion.

The provision of permanent funding for manufacturing and cybersecurity capacity at HTDC is vital towards the development of these respective economies. With the cybersecurity job market in Honolulu projected to increase by 32% between 2022 and 2032, this investment will benefit the State by decreasing our import reliance, creating jobs in State-identified priority industries, and stimulating innovation for technologies that bolster national security. The inclusion of marketing and branding capacity is also of prime importance, contributing towards robust, cohesive, and engaging messaging around HTDC's full suite of services. This encourages further utilization of these services while publicizing HTDC's accomplishments and success stories, improving return on investment across organizational efforts.

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.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3166. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Statement of  
**Doreen Wong**  
**Ocean Technology and Innovation Advisor**  
before the  
**Committee on Economic Development and Tourism**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**  
**1:02 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

In consideration of  
**SB3166 RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism,

I, Doreen Wong, an ocean technology and innovation advisor, **SUPPORT SB3166**, which appropriates funds to establish Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Specialist, and Marketing and Branding Specialist positions within HTDC. These roles are critical to advancing Hawaii's position as a technology innovation leader in the Pacific, particularly in the blue economy (ocean-based economy), advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity.

Hawaii's manufacturing sector is underrepresented, accounting for just 2.3% of state GDP compared to the U.S. average of 11%, according to the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#). HTDC can help local businesses adopt Industry 4.0 technologies, strengthen supply chains, and protect against cyber threats. In 2021 alone, [an FBI Internet Crime report estimated](#) that cyberattacks cost U.S. businesses over \$6.9 billion.

I have worked globally and locally in ocean technology and innovation, advising NOAA-funded Ocean Enterprise Accelerators and collaborating with HTDC and the University of Hawaii to build our local technology and innovation ecosystem. As a member of the 1000 Ocean Startups coalition, a global network of over 60 incubators, accelerators, and investors, several with ties to Hawaii, I've seen immense growth in investments and support for industries relevant to Hawaii's natural strengths. Hawaii has incredible potential but needs targeted support to fully participate and benefit. Strategic investments in technology innovation, advanced manufacturing, and workforce development can double economic returns. We've seen this in regions like San Diego, Washington, New England (e.g., Rhode Island), Canada, and more. Now is the time for Hawaii, considering UHERO's recent report: [Beyond the Price of Paradise: Is Hawaii Being Left Behind?](#)

I urge you to support **SB3166** to help grow our local economy and create future-ready jobs for our residents. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,



Doreen Wong  
Ocean Technology and Innovation Advisor