

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 3168  
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Decoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) is dedicated to advancing Hawai'i as a leading innovation hub in the Pacific, with a focus on developing technology sectors such as ocean, aerospace, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing. SB3168 is highly relevant to our mission, as it establishes a revolving fund specifically to finance the State's matching contributions required by federal grants. This mechanism directly supports HTDC's ability to leverage federal resources to accelerate technology-based economic development in Hawai'i.

The proposed revolving fund addresses a longstanding challenge for technology-driven initiatives: the need for timely and reliable state matching funds to unlock federal grant opportunities. Without a dedicated funding source, Hawai'i risks missing out on significant federal investments that could catalyze local innovation, job creation, and commercialization in priority sectors such as the blue economy, artificial intelligence, and clean energy. By establishing a revolving fund, SB3168 enhances HTDC's capacity to attract and deploy federal funds efficiently, maximizing the impact of every state dollar invested.

This approach aligns with best practices in technology-based economic development, where leveraging public-private partnerships and federal resources is critical for scaling innovation ecosystems. The revolving fund structure also promotes fiscal sustainability, as funds can be replenished and redeployed for future grant opportunities, ensuring ongoing support for Hawai'i's technology sector. This is particularly important for high-growth areas like ocean technology and renewable energy, where federal grant programs often require state matching to participate.





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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: SB3168 Relating to the 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.

# NORMAL

Normal Corporation - 131 Hekili St, Suite 208, Kailua, Hi 96734 - 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 3168**

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

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

**Normal Corporation** **SUPPORTS** SB 3168 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.

**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.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 1:02 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Tourism

## **SUPPORT SB3168 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports SB3168, as it establishes a revolving fund to provide state matching for federal grants awarded to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). This mechanism has the potential to catalyze new opportunities for local businesses, foster high-quality job creation, and strengthen the state's economic resilience.

The proposed revolving fund aligns with best practices in leveraging federal resources to maximize local impact. By providing matching funds, Hawai'i can unlock additional federal investment that might otherwise go unclaimed, supporting local firms in sectors that are critical for long-term diversification beyond tourism. This is particularly important for Maui's ongoing recovery, as businesses there still face significant challenges related to revenue loss, workforce shortages, and lingering effects from recent crises. Supporting HTDC's efforts can help build a more robust innovation ecosystem, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new industries to the islands.

We encourage ongoing stakeholder engagement, particularly with small and medium-sized enterprises, neighbor island businesses, and chambers of commerce, to ensure the program meets the needs of Hawai'i's diverse business community.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB3168 and ask that you move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



Statement of  
**BARBARA LOGAN**  
**CO-FOUNDER**  
**UNCLE'S ICE CREAM**  
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 3168**  
**RELATING TO HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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

Uncle's Ice Cream **SUPPORTS** SB 3168 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.

Uncle's Ice Cream is grateful to be a direct beneficiary of the **Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP)**, a vital grant administered by HTDC that allowed us to purchase much needed equipment to grow our production capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**SB-3168**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:30:52 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 3168 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.

Our company has received several matching grants that have assisted in the transition of project prototypes into commercial products. The continued funding of this program will ensure our company remains competitive in the technology industry.



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 3168 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.

Pi'ikū Co. is a Hawai'i-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing work-based learning programs for emerging technology talent. HTDC's ability to secure federal funding directly impacts the strength of Hawai'i's tech ecosystem and the opportunities available to our graduates. This revolving fund would ensure HTDC can compete effectively for federal grants that support innovation, workforce development, and manufacturing—all areas that create employment pathways for emerging local talent. The current misalignment between state funding timelines and federal grant deadlines means Hawai'i is leaving millions of dollars on the table that could strengthen our technology sector and create jobs for our participants. Pi'ikū depends on a well-resourced ecosystem to ensure our graduates have places to work after completing our programs. This appropriation would allow HTDC to leverage significant federal investment in Hawai'i's tech economy, multiplying the impact of state dollars and creating more sustainable career opportunities for Native Hawaiian and local youth right here at home.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

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 3168**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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

Hub Coworking Hawaii **SUPPORTS** SB 3168 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 Hawaii's tech economy. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, the bill strengthens Hawaii's competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises.

### **About Hub Coworking Hawaii and the Importance of State Matching Funds**

Hub Coworking Hawaii is a locally founded and operated coworking and innovation organization that supports entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses across Hawaii. Our community includes research-driven companies, technology startups, and advanced manufacturing-adjacent enterprises that regularly pursue federal funding opportunities as a pathway to commercialization, workforce development, and long-term growth.

Access to state matching funds is often a decisive factor in whether Hawaii-based companies and organizations can successfully compete for federal grants. Many

early-stage and small businesses lack the capital reserves needed to meet matching requirements, even when their projects are technically strong and well aligned with federal priorities. This challenge can prevent otherwise viable innovation and manufacturing initiatives from moving forward.

Establishing a dedicated revolving fund within HTDC would directly benefit the businesses and programs we support by enabling more timely and reliable access to matching funds. This flexibility would allow local innovators to pursue larger federal awards, accelerate research and development, and retain high-skilled jobs in Hawai'i rather than relocating to the mainland.

For Hub Coworking Hawaii, SB 3168 strengthens the broader innovation ecosystem by ensuring that federal dollars can be more effectively leveraged for local impact. A revolving matching fund increases return on investment for the state, supports the growth of startups and incubators, and reinforces Hawai'i's position as a competitive and credible partner for federal research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Mahalo,



Nam Vu

**SB-3168**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:34:30 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 SB3168  
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Pacific Impact Zone respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of SB3168, which establishes a revolving fund to provide timely state matching funds for federal grants awarded to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Pacific Impact Zone is currently working with HTDC through a public-private partnership to establish a shared-use advanced manufacturing facility in Hawai‘i. This effort relies heavily on federal funding sources that require state matching funds, often on compressed timelines that do not align with traditional appropriation cycles. SB3168 directly addresses this structural challenge and materially improves the State’s ability to compete for and execute federal awards .

From an operator’s perspective, uncertainty around state matching funds introduces real risk. Federal manufacturing, innovation, and technology grants are frequently awarded with firm execution schedules. When state matching funds cannot be confirmed quickly, opportunities are delayed, downsized, or lost entirely. For public-private partnerships like ours, that uncertainty complicates facility planning, equipment procurement, staffing decisions, and contractual commitments with industry partners.

SB3168 provides a disciplined and responsible solution. By establishing a revolving fund that is only accessed once a qualifying federal award is secured, the bill safeguards state resources while enabling HTDC to act quickly when opportunities arise. This structure gives federal partners confidence, allows projects to move forward without delay, and improves Hawai‘i’s credibility as a reliable participant in national innovation and manufacturing initiatives.

For the advanced manufacturing facility we are developing with HTDC, access to timely matching funds is not theoretical. It directly affects our ability to bring federal dollars into the state, deploy shared manufacturing equipment, support small businesses executing federally funded work, and sustain operations through earned revenue rather than ongoing state subsidy. SB3168 strengthens the State’s role as a catalytic partner while preserving accountability and oversight through required reporting.

We also support the bill's emphasis on transparency. Annual reporting on fund balances, matched grants, and economic outcomes provides the Legislature with clear visibility into how state dollars are leveraged and what returns they generate in terms of investment attracted, manufacturing capability deployed, and jobs supported.

In summary, SB3168 removes a critical bottleneck that has limited Hawai'i's ability to fully capitalize on federal innovation and manufacturing funding. It strengthens HTDC's execution capacity and directly supports public-private partnerships like ours that are working to build durable, production-oriented infrastructure in the state. Pacific Impact Zone respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB3168.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Statement of  
**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 3168**  
**RELATING TO 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 3168 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.

Hawaiian King Candies, LLC is a Honolulu-based manufacturer of confections and snack products and has proudly operated in Hawai'i for over 40 years. As a long-standing local manufacturer, our business depends on continued investment in innovation, infrastructure, and workforce development to remain competitive in both local and national markets. Access to federal grant programs—supported by timely state matching funds—can help manufacturers modernize production, improve supply chain resilience, and adopt new technologies.

By enabling HTDC to act quickly and strategically in securing federal funds, SB 3168 supports local manufacturers like ours that contribute to job creation, local sourcing, and long-term economic stability in Hawai'i.

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 3168**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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

Purdyco, Ltd. **SUPPORTS** SB 3168 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 Hawaii's tech economy. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, the bill strengthens Hawaii's competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises.

Purdyco, Ltd. is a Hawaii-based agricultural and food manufacturing company engaged in the farming, processing, and marketing of macadamia nuts and confectionery products. Our operations rely on modern processing facilities, efficient logistics, and continuous product innovation. Federal programs that support manufacturing upgrades and research often require state matching funds, which can be a barrier for local companies without a reliable mechanism in place.

SB 3168 helps remove that barrier, allowing HTDC to better support local value-added agriculture and manufacturing businesses that create jobs and strengthen Hawaii's food and manufacturing sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.  
A Division of Purdyco Ltd.

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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 3168**  
**RELATING TO HAWAI'I TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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

COHI, Inc. **SUPPORTS** SB 3168 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.

COHI, Inc. operates a coffee farm and roasting facility on the island of Moloka'i and sources green coffee from farms across Hawai'i. As a vertically integrated agricultural and manufacturing business, access to federal programs supporting sustainability, processing efficiency, and technology adoption is increasingly important. The availability of state matching funds through a dedicated revolving fund improves the feasibility of participating in these programs.

SB 3168 enhances HTDC's ability to support rural and neighbor island businesses like ours while advancing economic diversification beyond tourism.

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**



**MAUI**  
**BREWING CO**

4 February 2026

[COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM](#)

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Re: Support SB3168

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

My name is Garrett W. Marrero, I am the CEO and Co-Founder of Maui Brewing Co., operating locations in Lahaina, Kaanapali, and Kihei on Maui, and Waikiki and Kailua on Oahu. Made in Hawai'i and sold in 6 States and 2 Countries, employing more than 500 teammates across Hawai'i. I am in strong support of SB3168.

SB3168 is a smart, forward-looking measure that strengthens Hawai'i's innovation economy by establishing a dedicated Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) Revolving Fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants. This directly supports HTDC's mission to accelerate research, innovation, technology, and advanced manufacturing initiatives across our islands.

Federal grant programs often require timely state matching funds. By creating a revolving fund, SB3168 gives HTDC the flexibility and responsiveness it needs to successfully compete for and secure these federal dollars. This approach maximizes the impact of state resources by leveraging significantly larger federal investments that might otherwise be left on the table.

The benefits extend well beyond HTDC itself. These federal grants support technology startups, incubators, workforce development, applied research, and local manufacturing—sectors that are critical to diversifying Hawai'i's economy, creating high-quality jobs, and reducing our reliance on tourism alone.

The annual reporting requirement also ensures transparency and accountability, giving the Legislature and the public clear visibility into how funds are deployed and the economic returns they generate.

In short, SB3168 is about using state dollars wisely to unlock federal funding, fuel innovation, and build a more resilient, future-ready Hawai'i economy. I strongly urge your support. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments and for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Garrett W. Marrero  
CEO and Co-Founder

[Garrett@MauiBrewing.com](mailto:Garrett@MauiBrewing.com)

**Handcrafted Ales & Lagers Brewed with Aloha**  
605 Lipoa Parkway, Kihei, HI 96753  
808.213.3002



**LATE**

Statement of  
Valerie Harmon  
Founder and CEO  
Namaka Algae, Inc.  
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 3168**

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

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

Nāmaka Algae, Inc. strongly **SUPPORTS** SB 3168 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.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Aloha,



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Valerie Harmon



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 10, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3168**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:02 PM

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai, 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 SB 3168**, which establishes the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation Revolving Fund to finance 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.

SB 3168 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 this measure emphasizes accountability, program oversight, and the responsible use of public funds. When structured properly, these programs can support innovation and competitiveness while delivering clear returns to the State.

By improving the State's capacity to leverage federal funding, SB 3168 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.

**LATE**

**SB-3168**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:20:02 PM

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>
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Fish Company Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Fish Company, established in 1978 and a long-time SBIR awardee, supports SB3168 which creates a revolving fund which will enhance HTDC’s capacity to leverage federal grant opportunities that support the growth of Hawai‘i’s tech economy. HTDC has a long and successful track record of supporting technology innovation in Hawaii, including aquaculture tech inovation. By providing timely and flexible matching funds, this bill will strengthen Hawai‘i’s competitiveness for federal resources and supports the growth of technology startups, incubators, and manufacturing enterprises. This is a critical next step for the evolution of HTDC to enhance its ability to support the tech innovation sector in our State.

**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: SB3168 Relating to Economic Development**

Aloha e Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 3168 (SB3168), which establishes the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation Revolving Fund to provide state matching funds for federal grants awarded to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation that support innovation, technology, research, and manufacturing initiatives.

SB 3168 aligns with the Economic Action Pillar of the Chamber's 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, which calls for strategic public investment in innovation, technology commercialization and high-growth sectors. These investments support high-wage job creation and generate multiplier effects across local supply chains and professional services.

By creating a revolving fund that can serve as matching capital for federal grants, this measure strengthens HTDC's ability to capture opportunities for federal funding in a timely manner. By making these funds available to HTDC prior to needing them, HTDC can operate with confidence of knowing that should they be awarded a federal grant requiring state match funds, their partner business stand no risk of losing out on funding opportunities that would allow their businesses to scale and monetize quickly. Losing these opportunities means these funds leave the state and contribute to another state's innovation and economic growth. With HTDC already having secured \$62 million in federal funding, they have demonstrated their ability to compete for federal funding, despite not having readily available state matching funds. The creation of this fund best positions HTDC to grow this number and protects our local innovators' ability to compete for funding and compete in the broader marketplace.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3168. 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.

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  
**SB3168**  
**RELATING TO HAWAI'I 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 and investment professional, **SUPPORT SB3168** 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. This is important, considering UHERO's recent report: [\*Beyond the Price of Paradise: Is Hawai'i Being Left Behind?\*](#).

Having worked in the investment space locally, nationally, and internationally, I have seen firsthand how state-matched funding can help unlock and catalyze valuable opportunities for Hawai'i. Public-private partnerships and state-backed funds attract other forms of capital (non-dilutive, philanthropy, and private investments), reduce risk for priority projects, strengthen the state's competitiveness for further opportunities, while helping businesses that impact our local activities to grow and succeed and creating more future-ready jobs for our residents.

SB3168's revolving fund will empower HTDC to provide strategic support to local technology and innovation companies, enabling them to access resources, attract investment, and commercialize their products. Matched funding not only leverages state dollars to draw private investment, but also signals Hawai'i's commitment to innovation and economic diversification. It builds confidence among investors, innovators, and partners, unlocking opportunities that would otherwise remain out of reach.

I urge you to support **SB3168**. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,



Doreen Wong  
Ocean Technology and Innovation Advisor