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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there has been a  
2 sharp decline in students pursuing careers in the fields of  
3 engineering and technology. Educational programs that offer  
4 maximum learning opportunities in these fields will ensure that  
5 Hawaii's young professionals, Hawaii's next generation of  
6 leaders and innovators, are effectively equipped with the  
7 specialized knowledge to compete in the global market.

8           Each year, the International Robot Maze Contest is held in  
9 Nagoya, Japan, where traditionally the competition has been made  
10 up of and dominated by the top technical high school and  
11 universities of Japan, Korea, and Guatemala. While in the past,  
12 no high school from the United States has ever entered the  
13 contest, this year, seventeen students from the Waiakea High  
14 School Robotics Team took their robotic creations to Japan and  
15 ended up winning several honors at the competition.

16           The Waiakea High School Robotics Team competed against  
17 thirty-four international teams, including twenty-eight



1 universities. The Team won one category, the "Fully Autonomous  
2 Micro Robot Maze Competition," and placed third and fourth in  
3 two other categories. The Team also won a "Best Effort" award.  
4 The robotics programs have introduced students to unique  
5 educational experiences that will allow them to explore their  
6 dreams, careers, and new frontiers in science and technology.

7 The legislature further finds that expanding the robotics  
8 program to the university level will further the opportunities  
9 in engineering and technology for Hawaii's young professionals  
10 and encourage the technology industry to consider Hawaii as a  
11 technology axis for the pacific region.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish a working group to  
13 consider the feasibility of creating an institute of robotics  
14 within the college of engineering at the University of Hawaii at  
15 Manoa.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the University  
17 of Hawaii a working group to consider the feasibility of  
18 creating an institute of robotics within the college of  
19 engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The dean of  
20 the college of engineering, or the dean's designee, shall be  
21 responsible for coordinating the working group and submitting a  
22 report to the legislature. Membership in the working group may



1 include, but shall not be limited to representatives from the  
2 legislature; the department of education; the department of  
3 business, economic development, and tourism; the county economic  
4 development boards; Hawaii's science and technology industry;  
5 the business community; and any others that may be deemed  
6 appropriate.

7 (b) The working group shall consider the feasibility of  
8 establishing an institute of robotics within the college of  
9 engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The working  
10 group may consider the following:

- 11 (1) Opportunities that an institute of robotics could  
12 offer to students and professors, and the interest  
13 level of each;
- 14 (2) Certificates or degrees that could be earned through  
15 an institute of robotics;
- 16 (3) Comparable programs at other universities or  
17 institutions of higher education;
- 18 (4) Areas of interest that would be most beneficial to  
19 Hawaii, including medical or health applications,  
20 elderly assistance, dual use, space exploration,  
21 software development, and oceanographic applications;



1 (5) Costs associated with establishing and maintaining an  
2 institute of robotics; and

3 (6) Any other issues that the working group finds  
4 relevant.

5 (c) The working group shall submit its findings and  
6 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
7 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2010.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon approval.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Institute of Robotics; Working Group

**Description:**

Establishes a working group to consider the feasibility of creating an institute of robotics within the University of Hawaii college of engineering; requires report on its findings and recommendations to the 2010 legislature. (SD1)

