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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that innovation is an  
2 essential driver of economic growth and future competitiveness.  
3 A thriving innovation economy promotes economic growth, fosters  
4 new technologies, creates jobs, and keeps the United States  
5 leading the global marketplace. States across the nation and  
6 the Obama administration have committed to renewing the  
7 country's focus on innovation as a means of fostering economic  
8 growth and creating high-wage jobs throughout the nation.

9           In Hawaii, the president of the University of Hawaii system  
10 recently unveiled recommendations of a draft report authored by  
11 the Advisory Council on Hawaii Innovation and Technology  
12 Advancement on how the University of Hawaii can build private  
13 sector high-wage jobs and partnerships. Report recommendations  
14 included identifying research as an industry in Hawaii;  
15 establishing the Hawaii Innovation Technology Exchange Institute  
16 (HiTEx); encouraging collaboration by integrating  
17 entrepreneurship into the university's curriculum; and  
18 identifying security, sustainability, energy, agriculture, data



1 analytics, and Asian-Pacific health as key areas for  
2 capitalizing on commercialization opportunities for Hawaii.

3 In addition, in 2010, the senate committee on economic  
4 development and technology and the house committee on economic  
5 revitalization, business, and military affairs convened an  
6 informal small business discussion group to address the most  
7 critical issues facing the small business sectors within  
8 Hawaii's economy. Representatives from The Chamber of Commerce  
9 of Hawaii, construction and trades industries, community  
10 nonprofits, the agricultural sector, food and restaurant  
11 industries, retailing, the science and technology sector, the  
12 commercial transportation industry, and interested stakeholders  
13 developed a package of bills that address the most pressing  
14 problems facing Hawaii's small business community.

15 The purpose of this Act is to support the findings of the  
16 small business working group and the recommendations proposed by  
17 the Advisory Council on Hawaii Innovation and Technology  
18 Advancement regarding regulatory requirements faced by  
19 businesses engaged in biotechnology research, by establishing a  
20 task force to:



- 1 (1) Identify barriers that Hawaii businesses and
- 2 university professors face in developing
- 3 entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology; and
- 4 (2) Recommend specific actions to address these barriers.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a biotechnology task  
6 force within the University of Hawaii for administrative  
7 purposes only. The task force shall assess barriers faced by  
8 businesses engaged in biotechnology research or other  
9 activities, and develop recommendations and any legislation  
10 required to expedite permit processing for the specialized needs  
11 of biotechnology businesses, including importation of organisms  
12 or other items that are typically classified as invasive species  
13 or hazardous in some manner.

14 (b) The task force shall include but not be limited to  
15 representatives from the:

- 16 (1) University of Hawaii system, including the college of
- 17 tropical agriculture and human resources, John A.
- 18 Burns school of medicine, and department of
- 19 oceanography;
- 20 (2) Department of agriculture;
- 21 (3) Department of land and natural resources;
- 22 (4) Department of health;



- 1 (5) Hawaii Science and Technology Council; and
- 2 (6) Biotechnology industry businesses, including
- 3 agricultural biotechnology, life
- 4 sciences/biotechnology, and bioenergy.

5 The representative from the University of Hawaii college of  
6 tropical agriculture and human resources shall serve as chair of  
7 the task force.

8 (c) The task force shall report its findings and  
9 recommendations to the legislature, including proposed  
10 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
11 the regular session of 2012.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 for  
15 the operations of the biotechnology task force.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
17 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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**Report Title:**

Biotechnology; Task Force; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a task force to identify barriers that Hawaii businesses and university professors face in developing entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology, and to recommend specific actions to address these barriers; requires report to the 2012 legislature; appropriates funds. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

