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Apr. 2018: *HTDC Breaks Ground on Entrepreneurs' Sandbox in Kaka'ako, \$1B Impact on State's Economy, and more...*

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From Robbie's Laptop

HTDC has a lot of exciting updates this month! Our Annual Economic Impact Survey revealed that HTDC clients contributed more than \$1 billion to Hawaii's economy last year! Even more, the grants programs, funded by the legislators, make a real difference. Every \$1 awarded in grants resulted in \$14 in state taxes.

The excitement doesn't stop there. Yesterday was a pivotal moment for HTDC. We broke ground in Kaka'ako for the Entrepreneurs' Sandbox! Three years in the making, this space will be a one-of-a-kind innovation center when it opens next year. Its development is a great example of a successful public-private partnership. We can't wait to open the Sandbox and see everyone, from keiki to kupuna, use its resources to bring their ideas to life.

Read on to learn more about these and other great updates from HTDC.



Stay inspired & keep moving forward,

Robbie Melton

Executive Director and CEO



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Noteworthy



HTDC Breaks Ground on Entrepreneurs' Sandbox in Kaka'ako

HTDC celebrated the groundbreaking in Kaka'ako for the Entrepreneurs' Sandbox. When completed, the Sandbox will be a center where people of all ages can learn to build products and develop creative content. The two-story, 13,500-square-foot Sandbox is expected to be completed in 2019 and is the first phase of the Kaka'ako Innovation Block. [Read more here.](#)



One Billion Dollar Impact

HTDC incubator tenants, graduates, grant recipients and clients boosted the state's economy with an estimated total economic impact of \$1.05 billion in 2017, according to our Annual Economic Impact Report of companies benefiting from HTDC programs. [Read more here.](#)

Bills to watch

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Investing In Hawaii



Locally made products featured at Hawaii Manufacturing Day

Local manufacturers showcased their made-in-Hawaii products at the Hawaii Manufacturing Day on March 19 at the State Capitol. The event was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and featured 40 local companies to spread awareness and promote the Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP) Grant, which HTDC's INNOVATE Hawaii administers. [Read more here.](#)

INNOVATE Hawaii Attends Hill Day in Washington D.C.

The American Small Manufacturers Coalition (ASMC) hosted its annual "Hill Day" event on March 7 and 8 in Washington D.C. Fifty-one ASMC members and client companies, including HTDC's INNOVATE Hawaii, gathered to talk to their respective Congressional delegation to advocate support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in its annual appropriations process. "We're very fortunate to have the MEP program for another year," INNOVATE Hawaii's Center

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increase in funding. [Read more here.](#)



Innovation In Hawaii

Collaboration and Relationships Fostered at Men's Shed

The Hawaii Men's Shed is a community workshop where men can pursue meaningful, creative interests and socialize with other men. Started in Australia in 1997, there are now more than 2,000 Men's Sheds worldwide and public health studies have found that Men's Shed participants live longer, healthier and happier lives. At the Men's Shed, the group of retirees enjoy working on community projects like repairing old bikes for the Institute for Human Services, building a picnic table for nonprofit groups and a playhouse for the Tripler Army Medical Center.



Growing the Māmaki Movement

Endemic to Hawaii, māmaki is receiving local, national and international attention because of its many health benefits. Local growers met at the first annual māmaki conference held April 6 on the Island of Hawai'i to share best practices. Local businesses are sharing māmaki with the world, including Shaka Tea, which produces a ready-to-drink format that expanded its distribution nationally. [Read more here.](#)

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homecomings



Welcome home, Sean McCormick!

Despite people telling him that it would be really hard to move back to Hawaii, Sean McCormick made up his mind to return so his daughter would grow up surrounded by relatives. In the process, he discovered that there ARE opportunities in Hawaii and found an interesting job he's passionate about.

[Hear more on Ho'i Mai.](#)



Did You Know?

VERGE is seeking early-stage companies and entrepreneurs addressing innovative solutions in energy, transportation, buildings, infrastructure or cybersecurity. Participate in the VERGE Accelerate fast-pitch competition and Startup Showcase at VERGE Hawaii: Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit (June 12-14 in Honolulu). Applications will be accepted through April 2. Learn more and apply today:

<http://grn.bz/vh18ahtdc>

Pearl City High School Robotics team is heading to the 2018 VEX Robotics World Championship from April 25 to 28 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky.



In The News

[Hawaii Technology Development Corp. to break ground on Kakaako innovation](#)

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Connections

April 20 // [Hawaii Business Magazine Presents SmallBiz Academy: Hilo](#)

April 21 // [AAUW: Techsavvy](#)

April 25–May16 // [Financials and Funding Fundamentals: XLR8HI Course](#)

May 10 // [HiSTEP 2018 Seminar: International Trade Shows](#)

May 31 // [Pathways to Profits: A Conversation with Erin Uehara](#)

June 12-14 // [VERGE Hawaii](#)



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