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Mar. 2018: HCATT & Shifted Energy honored with awards, \$1M of HSBIR grants awarded to local companies, and more...

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## From Robbie's Laptop

Celebrating 30 years in Startup Paradise, Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) recently honored entrepreneurs and local startup leaders. HVCA's longstanding presence is a testament to the digital and innovation economy in Hawaii! For decades, visionaries have brought positive change to our community: advancing technology, protecting the environment, preserving natural resources, and ensuring there are local jobs, among other achievements. Their dedication has impacted lives, time and time again.

We're honored to be a part of this legacy by providing mentoring and resources for these businesses. Facing an uncertain existence, HTDC hopes to receive the legislature's support that will secure our role in Hawaii's future. Please stay informed about how you can help HTDC continue to foster successful startups and evolve our local economy.



Stay inspired & keep moving forward,

Robbie Melton  
*Executive Director and CEO*



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## Noteworthy



### As bills move forward, HTDC is in hands of legislators

The University of Hawaii informed HTDC in January they will end the lease agreement and take possession of the Manoa Innovation Center (MIC) in July, and all the lease rents from MIC tenants will go the university. While UH will allow HTDC and our clients to continue renting space, these lease rents make up our operating budget, putting HTDC's existence in jeopardy.

Fortunately, the governor and legislators who support technology and innovation have submitted funding measures that could keep HTDC operating.

[Read more here.](#)

### Stay Updated: 2018 Bills to Watch

Please be on the lookout for email alerts we will be sending to let you know how you can help by submitting testimony that supports the efforts of our friends at the Capitol. Check out the list of important tech-related bills and sign up to receive updates at [htdc.org/2018bills](https://htdc.org/2018bills).

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The Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies (an HTDC program) won the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism Team of the Year award for outstanding work performance, creativity and innovation in achieving work efficiency, exemplary initiative and leadership, and for making a significant contribution toward the attainment of program objective. [Read more here.](#)

## Homecomings

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## Dean Uehara!

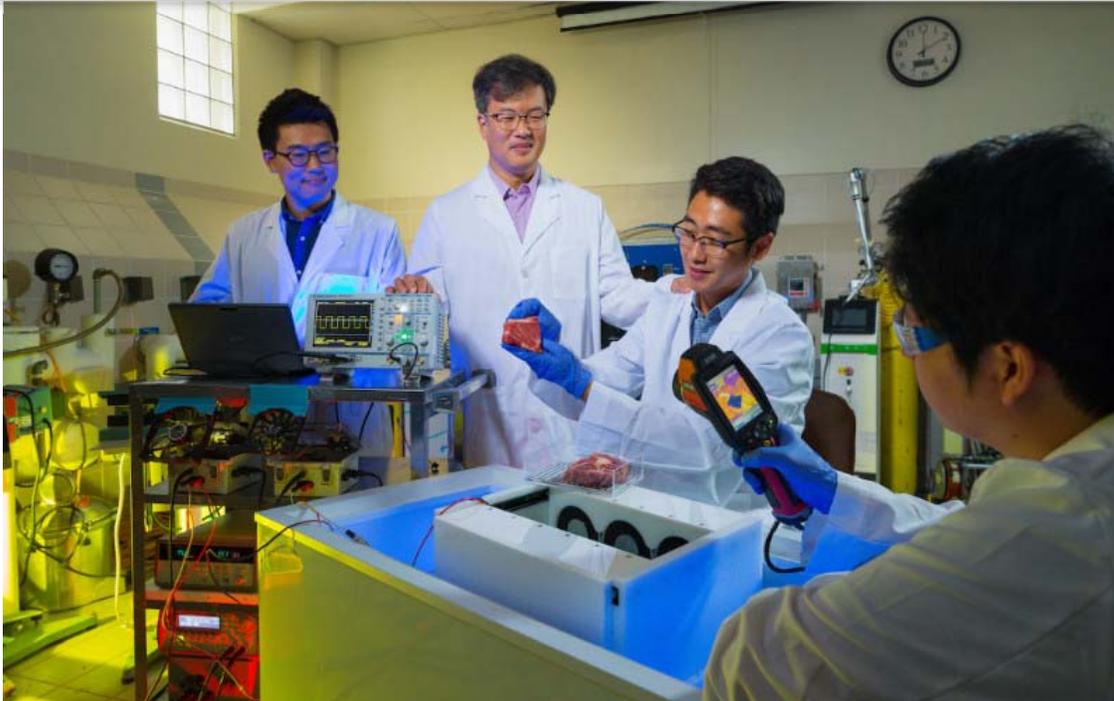
After 30 years on the East Coast, Dean Uehara didn't expect to find many opportunities designing custom integrated circuit boards like he had been doing in Maryland. But the electrons on the circuit board's ground layer collided with the riptides in the Pacific Ocean when he found Nalu Scientific at the 2017 Holiday Tech Job Fair! [Hear more on Hō'i Mai.](#)



## Investing In Hawaii Shifted Energy Wins Clean Tech/Ag Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Congratulations to CEO Forest Frizell and CTO Olin Lagon of Shifted Energy for winning the clean tech/ag entrepreneur of the year award! Shifted Energy invented the world's first off-tank water heater control systems, with temperature sensing, that require no underlying heater maintenance. [Read more here.](#)



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## HTDC Awards More Than \$1 Million in Grants to Local Companies

In early March HTDC awarded 15 Hawaii-based companies more than \$1.4 million from its Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research grant programs. The companies will use the funding to further the development of new products to meet a range of needs in the state, from healthcare solutions to agriculture. [Read more here.](#)



## Did You Know?

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FY17 annual report:

- Technology strengthens our economy. For every \$1 invested in grant programs, \$10 is generated in state taxes.
- Hawaii boasts the longest running matching grant program for the Federal Small Business Innovation Research grant program.
- Eighty percent of companies in incubators are likely to be in business five years after graduating.
  - Total startups & entrepreneurs: 56 in Manoa & 47 in Maui

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>



## In The News

[Hawaii bill would create new state innovation authority](#)

[UH Takeover Of Innovation Center Is Raising Tech Community Eyebrows](#)

[The Best of Startup Paradise: Clean Tech/Ag Entrepreneur of the Year — Shifted Energy](#)

[Hawaii Technology Development Corp. awards \\$1.4M in Small Business Innovation](#)

[Research grants](#)

[Hawaii Technology Development Corp.'s revenue stream in jeopardy](#)

[Three Hawai'i Island Tech Companies Receive HSBIR Funding](#)



## Connections

March 17 // [Sustainability Forum](#)

March 22 // [Financials & Funding Fundamentals Workshop](#)

March 28 // [WetWare Wednesday](#)

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April 10-11 // [Hawaii STEM Conference](#)

April 25 // How Your Company Can Benefit from Federal & State Tax Credits

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



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