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May 2018: Legislative Support Shaping the Future, INNOVATE  
Hawaii, 2018 TechConnect Conference, Mana Up, and more...

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## From Robbie's Laptop

Now more than ever, innovation and tech talent continues to thrive in Hawaii. Recently we began construction on the Entrepreneurs' Sandbox, our client DevLeague received approval to accept the GI Bill®, and new accelerators have emerged. Hawaii tech companies continue to log achievements globally and HTDC clients are receiving well-deserved recognition. In addition, we hope to accelerate the momentum with funding received for five grant programs that will support research and development companies, manufacturers and accelerator programs. This funding will give us greater opportunities to advance the innovation and technology sectors in the years ahead, moving us closer to our 80/80 goal.

These accomplishments wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of our state legislators. I'm confident decisions made during the 2018 Legislative Session will contribute to sustainable economic growth tomorrow.

Read on to learn more about the significant measures that passed this session and the impact they and HTDC programs will have on our state's innovation and technology community.



Stay inspired & keep moving forward,

Robbie Melton

*Executive Director and CEO*

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## Noteworthy



### **Legislative Support Shaping the Future**

This session, the governor and legislators reaffirmed their commitment to HTDC by providing additional funding to keep HTDC operational. With the loss of the Manoa Innovation Center (MIC), HTDC's major source of funding, securing these additional funds was critical to allowing HTDC to continue growing the state's technology and innovation economy. HTDC received funding for five grant programs to support innovation. [Read more here.](#)

## Investing In Hawaii

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## 2018 TechConnect World Innovation Conference and Expo

To stay on top of trends in the fast-moving innovation and technology sector, HTDC invited some of its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) clients to learn from the world's brightest innovators and tech industry leaders at the 2018 TechConnect World Innovation Conference and Expo on May 13–16.

[Read more here.](#)

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## INNOVATE Hawaii Helps Local Manufacturers Expand

Have you ever wondered how local food manufacturers are able to navigate the strict regulations required to distribute food products on a national, or even global, scale? INNOVATE Hawaii has helped numerous companies achieve this, providing consultation services so local food manufacturers can secure and retain contracts with major retailers. [Read more here.](#)



## Innovation in Hawaii

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## Mana Up: Helping Local Brands Grow Globally

HTDC's partner Mana Up's first cohort pitched to an audience of hundreds at their inaugural showcase on April 27 at SALT at Our Kaka'ako. The companies offered samples and promoted sales of their products at this high-energy event. Mana Up's accelerator program enables Hawaii entrepreneurs to grow their companies into global brands with the goal of creating sustainable wealth and livelihoods for Hawaii residents. Mana Up is now accepting applications for Cohort 2. Find out more on their [website](#).

## Homecomings



## Welcome home, Stan Lau!

With the experience Stan Lau gained from his time away, he founded Hawaii Tech Support and is providing more opportunities for kama'aina to come home. He's HIRING! Stay tuned to the Ho'i Mai blog for more opportunities to come home! [Hear more on Ho'i Mai.](#)

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## Did You Know?

### Smart Yields Recognized in Small Business Program

In the state's largest small business recognition program, Smart Yields received the 2018 SmallBiz Editor's Choice Award for Most Innovative Business. Smart Yields, an HTDC partner, continues to be recognized locally and globally for their efforts to improve agriculture through technology. Keep up the great work!

### Sun Global Partnership Creates Global Business Opportunity

Manoa Innovation Center client Sun Global Broadband (SGB) celebrated its agreement with Japanese Wi-Fi service provider NTT Broadband Platform with a signing ceremony attended by Gov. David Ige and a reception attended by Mayor Kirk Caldwell. The agreement will utilize SGB's proprietary technology to support Wi-Fi services in Waikiki. The story was covered in a [Pacific Business News](#) article.

## In The News

[Tech, manufacturing jobs contributed \\$1B to Hawaii economy, HTDC says](#)

[Electric Vehicle Charging Signs to be Posted Along Highway 19 & 190](#)

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

[Groundbreaking ceremony held for innovators playground](#)

[Kakaako tech incubator breaks ground](#)

[Hawaiian Cool Water taps into growth](#)

[Hawaii-based coding boot camp DevLeague gets GI-Bill approval](#)

## Connections

May 30 // [WetWare Wednesday](#)

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