



To: Hawaii'i Technology Development Corporation Board of Directors
From: Trung Lam, Executive Director & CEO
Date: August 27, 2025
Subject: Hawaii'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) Executive Director's Report

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

Information only. No action requested.

PROGRAM UPDATES

A. FACILITIES

i. Entrepreneurs Sandbox

Effective August 11, 2025, Suite 210, originally rented to Servco will be rented to the TRUE Initiative. TRUE – Technology Readiness User Evaluation, was formed in 2019 with the support of Hawaii'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), as a public-private partnership to accelerate the adoption of technology by encouraging collaboration and sharing of tech solutions to solve common business challenges. As part of HTDC's physical restructuring, six (6) of HTDC's staff have transitioned from the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) to a portion of the Sandbox's 1st floor semi-private office space. HTDC now has a standing presence and program managers positioned at the Sandbox to support community needs.

Events of relevance coming up for Sandbox include Honolulu Tech Week (HTW) from September 8-14, 2025, HTDC is a prime sponsor. Sandbox will be home for HTW's main events all week. In addition, there will be over 50+ tech relating ecosystem events organized by community, <https://honolulutechweek.com/>

B. Hawaii Small Business Capital (HI-Cap) Program

- i. Working with Chamber of Commerce Hawaii'i to implement the new Technical Assistance Program as part of the funding received from the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Small Business Opportunity Program (SBOP).
- ii. In discussion with a few smaller local Venture Capital (VC) partners about Hawaii'i VC funding opportunities.

C. INNOVATE Hawai'i

i. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Funding Update

INNOVATE Hawai'i, the state's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center, faces an uncertain future despite serving as a vital resource for Hawai'i's small and medium- sized manufacturers for over 20 years. Operated under the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), the program has consistently delivered high-impact services in business growth, operational improvement, and risk mitigation. Key offerings include:

- Food industry support
- Quality management systems
- Marketing and sales strategies
- Process improvement initiatives

In addition, INNOVATE Hawai'i plays a critical role in workforce development through skills training and certification programs aimed at preparing the next generation of manufacturing professionals.

Historically, the program has relied on over \$800,000 in annual federal funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Although this funding was recently cut, swift advocacy efforts and strong public support led to a temporary restoration through September 2025.

Currently, the program remains operational but is functioning at reduced capacity due to the departure of key personnel. While the temporary funding extension provides short-term stability, the long-term sustainability of Hawai'i's MEP Center remains uncertain.

ii. Department of Energy – Smart Manufacturing Training Program

Program activities are currently on hold pending contract renewals. Once finalized, we will resume key initiatives including:

- Industry outreach and engagement
- Manufacturing assessments

- Smart Manufacturing workshops

These efforts are essential to advancing innovation and operational excellence across the local manufacturing sector.

iii. NIST MEP Expansion Awards Pilot Program (MEAPP) Supply Chain Optimizations Intelligence Network (SCOIN)

The project concluded on May 31, 2025. Key deliverables included the development of Supply Chain Intelligence tools and assessment frameworks, which are now prepared for testing.

Current activities include:

- Finalizing project close-out procedures and compiling final reports
- Ongoing engagement with supplier scouting requests from MEP National Network

These efforts continue to support national supply chain resilience and expand opportunities for local manufacturers.

iv. Made in Hawai'i Festival 2025 Sponsorship

The sponsorship supports the annual made in Hawai'i Festival, a key event promoting locally manufactured products. For local manufacturers, the event provides strategic value by:

- Facilitating product validation in a live consumer environment.
- Gathering direct customer feedback to inform product development.
- Driving top-line growth through increased brand exposure and sales opportunities.

This initiative aligns with INNOVATE Hawai'i's commitment to support Hawai'i based businesses and fostering economic development within the local manufacturing sector.

D. Hawaii Center for Advance Transportation Technologies (HCATT)



- i. The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) recently approved a no cost time extension for HCATT's cooperative agreement, which was set to expire November 2025. The extension is approved through 2027. Further, HCATT recently awarded a \$1.677M contract to A&E Burns & McDonnell to purchase additional switch gear and related electrical equipment to support the expansion of operational capabilities of the Pacific Energy Assurance Renewables Laboratory microgrid.

E. Geothermal

- i. Ways And Means (WAM) Meeting at Puna Geothermal postponed

F. Aerospace

- i. HTDC is working with consultants Computer Access Technologies (CAT) to develop a plan for an aerospace port and related facilities across the state, using insights from the draft report and ongoing discussions. The objective is to finalize a proposal and prepare a bill for the upcoming legislative session to request additional funding.

G. Budget

- i. FY25 Review and FY26-27 Draft

H. SPONSORSHIPS

- i. Made in Hawaii Festival 2025 - \$16,500
<https://madeinhawaiifestival.com/>
 - i. August 15 – 17, 2025
 - ii. 31st Made in Hawaii Festival showcasing over 500+ local vendors and supporting Hawai'i made products
- ii. Honolulu Tech Week (HTW) - \$10,000
<https://honolulutechweek.com/>
 - i. September 14 – 18, 2025
 - ii. Series of over forty (40) community-based events dedicated to showcasing and celebrating technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship across the state.

I. Other

- i. Strategy sessions with the ecosystem
 - i. Two sessions have been held with ecosystem builders to get insight for a strategic framework
 - ii. Introduced the idea of a field catalyst
 - iii. Explored focus areas in aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, health, ocean
- ii. Meetings with team from Senator Hirono and Schatz, and Congressman Case
 - i. Earmarked Funding
 - ii. Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act of 2025
- iii. Aerospace NLGA (National Lieutenant Governors Association) nomination from Lt. Governor

