



SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORP (HTDC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 1, 2024

Entrepreneurs Sandbox – Red Box
643 Ilao St., Honolulu, HI 96813

Member(s) Present

Matthew Sullivan, Chair (Mr. Sullivan)
Gregory Kim, (Mr. Kim)
Vincent Kimura, (Mr. Kimura)
Vassilis Syrmos, (Mr. Syrmos)
Dane Wicker, (Mr. Wicker)

Staff Present

Wayne Inouye, Acting Executive Director
(Mr. Inouye)
Cassidy Wong (Ms. Wong)

Member(s) Absent

None

Counsel Present

Elise Amemiya, Deputy Attorney General
(Ms. Amemiya)

Guest(s) Present

None

Members of the Public Present

Sean Quinn, (Mr. Quinn)

[ZOOM Meeting Recording](#)

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Syrmos, Mr. Kimura, Mr. Kim, and Mr. Wicker

3. Review goals and timeline of subcommittee

Mr. Sullivan states that this agenda item is to briefly review the HTDC programs, collect quantitative and qualitative metrics, identify gaps, and develop recommendations for improvements to deliver to the entire board by late July or early August.

Mr. Syrmos questions if the recommendations are strictly budgetary or structural and beyond.

Mr. Wicker states that July and August are when policy changes are submitted, and budget changes are in September. He states that it should be both budgetary and structural.

Mr. Sullivan states that the initial step will be reviewing the programs of HTDC as there are existing metrics.

Mr. Wicker agrees and states that short term goals could be to develop talking points for legislators for funding and to include the funding in the base budget. Long term goals could be to develop new programs and initiatives.

Mr. Kim suggests developing metrics for Mr. Inouye and asking for historical data of the programs.

Mr. Syrmos agrees with Mr. Kim and states that it just needs to be a document.

Mr. Inouye states that he will provide the data.

4. Review of core programs

Mr. Sullivan shares documents containing the applications for the Manufacturing Assistance Grant Program (MAP), the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant Program, and the Economic Impact Survey.

Mr. Inouye presents a general overview of the applications along with the economic impact survey.

Mr. Wicker states that revisiting the program related data should come first before redoing the economic impact survey. We should also review the grant application questions to see if they connect to HTDC's goals.

Mr. Sullivan states that he does plan on asking Mr. Inouye for historical data and they are working together to produce more information for review.

5. Create specific requests for information and data collection from HTDC staff

Mr. Sullivan suggests asking for data such as key dates of funding cycles for all programs, macro trends, catalytic metrics, programs acting as multipliers, cultural impact, permanent effects, and data providing marketing or communicating substance.

Mr. Syrmos requests data on how much accelerators actively work in Hawaii.

Mr. Kim agrees and requests metrics on data focusing on accelerators.

Ms. Amemiya invites Mr. Quinn to present his testimony.

Mr. Quinn states that he is a third-year student from William S. Richardson law school and former aerospace engineer and entrepreneur. He states that he is attending the subcommittee meeting for his administrative law class, and he recently read the HTDC board minutes for February 16, 2024. Mr. Quinn states that he feels HTDC, specifically the accelerator program, could benefit from connecting with law students.

6. Discussion on plan for subcommittee outreach to core program stakeholders and recipients

Mr. Sullivan states that he had a preliminary idea of having board members interview stakeholders and grant awardees to get a good idea of the impacts.

Mr. Kim suggests creating a survey and following it up with a meeting to be more time efficient.

Mr. Syrmos agrees with the idea of having one on one meetings but expresses concern on sample bias.

Mr. Kimura states that you could randomize based on dollar amount awarded throughout the years.

Mr. Sullivan states that the subcommittee could also have HTDC pick the companies along with justification.

Mr. Sullivan states that he will work with Mr. Inouye to find companies and/or accelerators to interview. The subcommittee can approve or disapprove the list.

7. Preliminary discussion on HTDC marketing and communications strategy for upcoming legislative session

Mr. Sullivan suggests outlining a marketing and communications strategy.

Mr. Wicker states that HTDC has a Public Relations firm contracted, Gray Media, and they do very well.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Sullivan calls for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Wicker / second by Mr. Kimura

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

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