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Hawai‘i Wave Launches 2026–27 Dual-Use Incubation Cohort

HONOLULU, Hawai‘i, August 7, 2026 – The Hawai‘i Wave Incubation Program, operated by the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research or PICHTR, today announced its 2026–27 cohort of nine companies developing technologies with potential applications across commercial, government, and national-security markets.

Hawai‘i Wave is funded by the Hawai‘i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), part of the Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). This support strengthens efforts to help technology companies pursue new markets, develop government and industry partnerships, and contribute to Hawai‘i’s innovation economy.

Selected through a competitive evaluation process, the new cohort represents a range of emerging technology fields, including maritime systems, advanced materials, additive manufacturing, sensing, robotics, cybersecurity, online privacy, and personal protection.

The Hawai‘i Wave 2026–27 cohort includes:

- **Voltage Vessels LLC:** Develops advanced materials for 3D printing strong, lightweight structures used in maritime and industrial applications.
- **Kamanu Composites, LLC:** Manufactures high-performance canoes and other structures using durable, lightweight composite materials.
- **HI-Spectral:** Designs innovative cameras that capture detailed color information for scientific and environmental analysis.
- **Silixa LLC:** Uses advanced fiber-optic technology to monitor underwater environments and help protect critical infrastructure.
- **LessCAD, also known as Matter Manifest:** Simplifies the design and manufacturing of 3D parts by using artificial intelligence to automate complex tasks.
- **LAKI ROBOTICS:** Creates unmanned ground vehicles equipped with artificial intelligence to perform missions such as perimeter security and logistical support.
- **CETHERA Co. Ltd.:** Develops advanced security processors designed to protect data from cyberattacks, including emerging quantum-computing threats.
- **404 Privacy LLC:** Provides technology and training to help individuals and organizations protect their online privacy from surveillance.
- **Titanium Flex Gear, Inc.:** Produces discreet, bullet-resistant clothing designed to provide consumers with protection while remaining comfortable and suitable for everyday wear.

“We are excited to welcome this new group of entrepreneurs and innovators into Hawai‘i Wave,” said Ian Kitajima, President and CEO of PICHTR. “These companies represent the kind of practical, forward-looking innovation that can create commercial value while also addressing important government, public-safety, infrastructure, and national-security needs. Hawai‘i is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge connecting technology, markets, and partners across the United States and the Indo-Pacific.”

Through Hawai‘i Wave, participating companies will receive guidance, mentorship, market intelligence, and curated introductions designed to help them better understand and pursue commercial, federal, and national-security opportunities.

Key elements of the program include:

- **Dual-use development:** Participants will explore how their technologies can serve both commercial customers and government or national-security missions.
- **Mentorship and customer discovery:** Companies will connect with experienced entrepreneurs, technology leaders, researchers, government representatives, and national-security stakeholders.
- **Government-market readiness:** The program will help participants better understand customer needs, procurement pathways, funding opportunities, contracting requirements, and pathways into federal markets.
- **Strategic partnerships:** Companies will gain exposure to PICHTR’s network of local, national, and international partners, including relationships developed through Hawai‘i Wave, J-StarX, and allied-nation innovation programs.
- **Commercialization and growth:** Participants will work to strengthen their business models, validate market opportunities, improve market readiness, and prepare their technologies for broader adoption.

Hawai‘i Wave builds upon PICHTR’s experience connecting entrepreneurs, government agencies, industry, education, and international partners. With funding from the Hawai‘i Technology Development Corporation, the program is designed to strengthen Hawai‘i’s innovation economy while helping companies develop solutions relevant to resilience, critical infrastructure, public safety, environmental monitoring, cybersecurity, and national security.

“Our goal is not simply to help companies enter a new market,” Kitajima said. “It is to build a stronger bridge between innovators and the customers, mentors, partners, and opportunities that can help their technologies create meaningful impact.”

For more information about the Hawai‘i Wave 2026–27 cohort and program, visit www.hawaiiwave.org.

About the Hawai‘i Wave Incubation Program

The Hawai‘i Wave Incubation Program helps companies explore and enter federal government and national-security markets while continuing to build commercially viable businesses. The program provides mentorship, education, customer discovery, market guidance, and access to a network of government, industry, academic, and international partners.
Hawai‘i Wave is operated by the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research and funded by the Hawai‘i Technology Development Corporation, part of the Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

About PICHTR

The Pacific International Center for High Technology Research is a Hawai‘i-based nonprofit organization that advances technology development, commercialization, workforce development, and public-private

partnerships across Hawai‘i and the Asia-Pacific region. PICHTR connects government, industry, entrepreneurs, educators, researchers, and international partners to turn promising technologies into practical solutions.

For more information, visit www.pichtr.org.

About HTDC

The Hawai‘i Technology Development Corporation is a state agency focused on developing Hawai‘i’s technology industry and supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, and technology-based economic development. HTDC is part of the Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Visit www.htdc.org

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For media inquiries or to schedule an interview, contact Ian Kitajima at info@pichtr.org or 808-943-9581.