



Hawaii Biotech, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HAWAII BIOTECH GAINS RIGHTS TO WEST NILE VACCINE TECHNOLOGY FROM
MERCK**

(HONOLULU, April 11, 2013) – Hawaii Biotech, Inc., (HBI), a Hawaii-based biotech company focused on the development of recombinant protein subunit vaccines for infectious disease, announced today that it has acquired ownership of a patent family to West Nile virus vaccine technology together with a non-exclusive license to recombinant protein expression technology from Merck, known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, through a subsidiary.

“This transaction will enable HBI to continue the development of our vaccine for West Nile virus, an important emerging infectious disease. It is a significant milestone for Hawaii Biotech,” noted HBI CEO Elliot Parks, Ph.D. “We appreciate the cooperation we have received from Merck, and we look forward to continuing the clinical development of this vaccine candidate.”

HBI is actively engaged in research and development at its Aiea facility on Oahu, Hawaii. HBI is currently developing a Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic fever vaccine facilitated by a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Other subunit vaccines are also under development including a malaria vaccine in collaboration with academic researchers at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and a tick-borne flavivirus vaccine.

HAWAII BIOTECH, INC. is a privately held biotechnology company focused on the development of prophylactic vaccines for established and emerging infectious diseases. HBI has developed proprietary expertise in the production of recombinant proteins that have application to the manufacture of safe and effective vaccines, diagnostic kits and as research tools. HBI completed successful first-in-human Phase 1 clinical studies with both West Nile virus and dengue vaccines in healthy human subjects. HBI is currently engaged in the development of a product pipeline of recombinant subunit vaccines, including vaccine candidates for tick-borne flavivirus, malaria, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, and other infectious agents. HBI, the oldest biotech company in Hawaii, is headquartered in suburban Honolulu. For more information, please visit: www.hibiotech.com