Hawaii Biotech, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HAWAII BIOTECH RECEIVES CRIMEAN-CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER VACCINE GRANT

(HONOLULU, June 28, 2012) -- Hawaii Biotech, Inc. was awarded a two-year SBIR phase I grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease to continue development of a vaccine to protect healthy individuals against Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever. This brings Hawaii Biotech's current product array to three, including vaccine candidates for West Nile virus, Tick-Borne Flaviviruses, and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever.

"We are delighted to advance our vaccine development efforts with the continued support of NIAID. This support will allow to further expand our expertise in the preclinical development of vaccines for viral hemorrhagic fevers and move this Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever vaccine candidate towards clinical testing," stated Dr. Elliot Parks, CEO of Hawaii Biotech, Inc.

Hawaii Biotech, Inc., will use its proprietary recombinant protein production platform to produce a subunit vaccine containing Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever virus envelope glycoprotein. Subunit vaccines provide a number of benefits over virally based proteins. This grant will help to fund optimization of protein expression, downstream processing, and vaccine formulation. Funds will also be used to establish vaccine safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy in appropriate animal models.

About Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever:
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (*Nairovirus*) of the *Bunyaviridae* family. The CCHF virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, with a fatality rate of up to 40%. Ixodid (hard) ticks, especially those of the genus, *Hyalomma*, are both a reservoir and a vector for the CCHF virus. Numerous wild and domestic animals, such as cattle, goats, sheep and hares, serve as amplifying hosts for the virus. The virus is primarily transmitted to people from ticks and livestock animals. Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons. Documented spread of CCHF has also been reported in hospitals due to improper sterilization of medical equipment, reuse of injection needles, and contamination of medical supplies. CCHF is endemic in Africa, the Balkans, throughout the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and Asian countries south of the 50th parallel north – the geographical limit of the principal tick vector.
For more information: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs208/en/

About Hawaii Biotech Inc.:
Hawaii Biotech 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. In 2010, HBI sold its dengue vaccine to Merck Sharp and Dohme. HBI is currently engaged in the development of a product pipeline of recombinant subunit vaccines, including vaccine candidates for West Nile virus, tick-borne flavivirus, malaria, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, and other infectious agents. HBI, the oldest biotech company in Hawaii, is headquartered in suburban Honolulu.