



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

by

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SB 3191 SD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Perusso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of SB 3191 SD1 that permanently authorizes the university to continue to regulate conflicts of interest and other ethical issues for technology transfer activities it sponsors.

In 2017, the Legislature supported UH's efforts to promote the commercialization of inventions and discoveries generated by its faculty, students and alumni by giving UH the responsibility to ensure that its technology transfer activities comport with principles embodied in the State Ethics Code via Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017. This much-needed authority granted to UH, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i (SSLH) 2021, sunsets on June 30, 2024.

Through the establishment of a regent's policy, an executive policy, and administrative procedures to assure compliance, technology transfer activities are steadily moving forward. As UH seeks to position itself as a driver of economic health and workforce diversification in the state, it is focused on aggressively encouraging, identifying and transforming the inventions and discoveries of its researchers into commercially viable products and businesses.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 8, SSLH 2021, be repealed permanently through the passage of SB 3191 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.