



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Higher Education
January 31, 2012 at 2:00pm
by

Linda K. Johnsrud
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2813 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION AGENCY

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

House Bill 2813 establishes the Hawai'i Science, Technology, and Innovation Agency through collaboration between University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

While the University of Hawai'i is strongly committed to STEM education and developing an innovation based economy in Hawai'i, we are not familiar with the intent of this bill or the proposed agency. We would be happy to learn more and also to share with the proposers of the bill some of the initiatives that UH does have relating to science and technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

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January 31, 2012 at 2:00pm
by
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2813 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

HB 2813 establishes the Hawai'i Science, Technology, and Innovation Agency through collaboration between UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

This bill advances an important priority for the State and the University of Hawai'i. Science and Technology is important for Hawaii's future so that Hawai'i is able to respond to changes in our natural, economic and social environments. As an island-state, Hawai'i is particularly vulnerable to the volatility in global markets. I understand the need to develop an innovation based economy and would like to learn more about the intent of this legislation that clearly attempts to enhance innovation in Science and Technology.

In addition, I appreciate the focus on the neighbor islands because there is clearly a need for Science and Technology workforce development here given our challenges. Opportunities for innovation are of great interest to us that conceivably will allow us to be more sustainable and develop a workforce that contributes in the technological environment of the 21st century.

We look forward to learning more about the intent of this bill as well as discussions on how we can collaborate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.