Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee Ways and Means March 29, 2017 at 1:40 p.m.

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation University of Hawai'i System

HB 909 HD2 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this measure.

The University of Hawai'i and local business community have partnered on the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, a bold and proactive effort to help diversify the state's economy by building a thriving innovation, research, education and training enterprise -- to be driven by the growth of new industries in Hawai'i and fueled by UH's plans to aggressively commercialize its research over the next decade.

A key to the success of this initiative is the establishment of the Center of Commercialization, which will serve as a virtual umbrella that will encompass grant development/commercialization/innovation related programs to increase efficiencies, effectiveness and success necessary for the establishment of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at UH.

Under the "quarterbacking" of the Center of Commercialization, the Strategic Grants Development office will provide system-wide strategic direction and coordination to increase grant funding in national science and technology funding priority areas. These priority areas will be further reinforced by faculty encouraged by a reinvented Office of Technology and Economic Development to file invention disclosures and to seek commercialization opportunities though UH's award-winning XLR8UH accelerator.

To help maximize the impact of the Center for Commercialization, UH continues to urge the Legislature to allow the concurrent passage of measures on commercialization and technology transfer that will enable UH to start the program initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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# Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means March 29, 2017 1:40 p.m. Conference Room 211

#### RE: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - HOUSE BILL 909, HD2

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable strongly supports House Bill 909, HD2, relating to the University of Hawaii Research. The bill establishes a Center for Commercialization at the University of Hawaii to commercially use intellectual property generated from research at the University.

The Hawaii Business Roundtable strongly believes that a strong research and innovation sector led by the University of Hawaii can be a large and important magnet for new money and new fields of job growth in Hawai'i. We concur with the Legislature that the commercialization of the intellectual property created by basic and applied research conducted at the University of Hawaii, holds great promise to contribute to the creation of jobs and economic growth. The Center of Commercialization, will be an important element in creating an environment conducive to commercializing research at the University of Hawaii.

To help maximize the impact of the Center for Commercialization, we also strongly recommend that of other current legislation which provides the University with the express authority to engage in economic activities should move forward with this measure.

We fully support the University's Innovation Initiative and believe it is critical for the future of our economy and the futures of our children. We support your efforts with this legislation to provide a better future for Hawaii.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director Hawaii Business Roundtable



#### HAWAII VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION

Statement of
Melialani James
President
Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA)

Testimony Presented Before the **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 1:40 p.m.

## In Consideration of HB 909 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) **strongly supports** this bill establish the Center of Commercialization.

Since its founding in 1988, the Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) has stood as a nexus for entrepreneurs, capital foundation, and networking opportunities in Hawaii. Fostering entrepreneurship through education and exposure to prime members of our business community continues to be our goal as we strive to grow a vibrant and successful venture community.

The University of Hawaii's research and innovation has the potential for successful commercialization that contributes directly to the State's economy, its academic and business reputation and to creating diverse, well-paying jobs and careers. This bill will assist in further developing and providing strategic direction for a thriving innovation ecosystem.

HVCA is committed to working with XLR8UH, and will actively connect newly formed companies to its wide network in order to maintain competitiveness and grow the industry. We fully agree on the relevance and importance of HB 909 HD2 and urge the Legislature to allow the concurrent passage of measures on commercialization and technology transfer that will enable UH to start the program initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments on this bill.

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 1:40 P.M. Conference Room 211, State Capitol

### RE: HOUSE BILL 909 HD2 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 909 HD2, which establishes a Center for Commercialization at the University of Hawaii to commercially use intellectual property generated from research at the University for the benefit of the State and its residents.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The University of Hawaii is the state's public institution supporting an array of programs and is considered a leading research university. Much of the research produced by these many fields has strong commercial potential that has not been capitalized. In order to reach its full potential, UH needs to proactively move these research projects to commercialization in order to become a major contributor to the state's economy and workforce. This bill would establish the Center for Commercialization and create the second state agency with this capability that could help move projects along and achieve maximum commercial potential within the University.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Statement of
Omar Sultan
Managing Partner
XLR8UH

Testimony Presented Before the **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 1:40 p.m.

## In Consideration of HB 909 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

XLR8UH respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of HB 909 HD2 to authorize the establishment of a Center for Commercialization.

One of the first of its kind in the nation, XLR8UH is a public-private partnership with University of Hawaii through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation and Honolulu-based Sultan Ventures, a local venture accelerator. Although just over 2 years old, XLR8UH is already a multiple award winning, venture accelerator program, nationally recognized by the Small Business Association in 2015 and 2016 and the Economic Development Association in 2016 under the Department of Commerce Regional Innovation Strategies i6 Challenge, that makes small, targeted, high-impact investments to support startup creation, innovation and help turn technology into jobs.

The bill before you is intended to provide new strategic initiatives, efficiencies, and direction to support the progress of XLR8UH and the development of UH research-based high potential commercialization projects. With its undeniable strengths in ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture and astronomy; and its growing strength in cybersecurity and health sciences -- UH has a significant amount of academic research that has viable commercial potential. Successful commercialization contributes directly to the State's economy, its academic and business reputation and to creating diverse, well-paying jobs and careers.

We urge the Legislature to concurrently allow passage of measures on commercialization and technology transfer that will enable UH to start the program initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization

We urge you to pass this legislation so that Hawaii can take its rightful place as a birthplace of innovation and provider of 21st century careers and jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



Statement of **Tarik Sultan** Managing Partner Sultan Ventures

Testimony Presented Before the **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 1:40 p.m.

## In Consideration of HB 909 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

Sultan Ventures respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of HB 909 HD2 to authorize the establishment of a Center for Commercialization to promote a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at the University of Hawai'i (UH).

Sultan Ventures is a Hawaii-based boutique venture firm focusing on early stage startups and investments. As a startup catalyst, we provide pivotal resources via our powerful network of experts and investors. We work closely with innovative startups, and run the XLR8UH program in partnership with UH, providing the hands-on expertise and access to capital needed to accelerate growth.

Ranging from Faculty with years of research to post docs and students just developing ideas, we see significant commercial potential in development and research coming out of the university through the XLR8UH program. We believe in the value that the Center of Commercialization will provide in order to assist our entrepreneurs with strategic support. This coordination of efforts will provide the necessary efficiency and effectiveness to continue to develop a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at UH.

We urge the Legislature to allow the concurrent passage of measures on commercialization and technology transfer, which enables UH to start the program initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization, and supports an ecosystem so that Hawaii can take its rightful place as a birthplace of innovation and provider of 21st century careers and jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 4:59 PM

To: WAM Testimony

**Cc:** hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com

**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB909 on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM\*

**HB909** 

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means On Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 9:50 a.m., Conference Room 211 by Brandon Marc Higa (as current law student)

## Testimony in Support: HB 909, SB2 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Brandon Marc Higa, a second year law student at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law.

I am writing in support of HB 909, HD2 – Relating to the University of Hawaii Center for Commercialization, as well as companion bill HB 847, HD1, as integral measures to support the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Innovation Initiative.

The proposed Center for Commercialization is necessary for the University of Hawaii to proactively build the infrastructure needed to foster an environment conducive to innovation among faculty, students, and community members. The proposed commercialization hub will build capacity to greatly enhance the productivity in various revenue generating activities.

In particular, I am in support of HB 909, HD2's underlying purpose to provide timely and efficient commercialization of intellectual property created by basic and applied research at the university as a driver of economic health and diversification for the State of Hawaii.

I am confident the commercialization efforts will build capacity and excitement in the innovative activities taking place at the University of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these measures.

Respectfully submitted: March 27, 2017.

s/Brandon Marc Higa President Emeritus, Student Bar Association William S. Richardson School of Law Entering Class of 2015