



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

by
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University of Hawai'i System

HB 2256 HD2 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the need to diversify Hawai'i's economy through the development of additional economic sectors based on research and innovation. As Hawai'i's only public research university and the largest research enterprise in the state, UH plays a vital role in Hawai'i's economic recovery and diversification.

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 technology transfer activities it sponsors comport with ethic principles embodied in the State Ethics Code. Pursuant to Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, University of Hawai'i sponsored technology transfer activities would be exempt from specific sections of the State Ethics Code so long as these technology transfer activities were subject to ethic policies and a compliance program established by UH that were specifically adapted to unique features of university-generated innovations. However, the transfer of compliance responsibility to UH by Act 38 sunsets on June 30, 2022.

The University of Hawai'i has developed draft policies and protocols and is consulting with the various stakeholder groups in the UH community, including its faculty. To continue the efforts to develop the policies, internal guidance, forms and procedural protocols to fully implement a robust compliance program, the University of Hawai'i supports the three-year extension of the sunset provision of Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, to June 30, 2025, as proposed in the HB 2256 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this measure.



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Acting Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, June 23, 2020
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
HB2256, HD2
RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB2256, HD2 that extends the sunset provision in Act 38, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, for certain exemptions from the Ethics Code as related to UH technology transfer from 6/30/2022 to 6/30/2025.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at growing tech and innovation jobs. HTDC has been working with University of Hawaii to align all of the resources in the State. Efficient transfer of technology coming out of the University will benefit HTDC's mission and the entire State. HTDC supports and appreciates the University's effort in this area. HTDC requests correction of the defective effective date and defers to the University on the specifics of the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.