



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Friday, February 2, 2024 at 2:05 p.m.

by

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

HB 2502 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of HB 2502.

In 2017, the Legislature backed 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 the technology transfer activities it sponsors 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 2021, sunsets on June 30, 2024.

With a regent's policy, an executive policy, and administrative procedures in place to assure compliance, technology transfer activities are progressing in the right direction as UH seeks to establish itself as a driver of economic health and workforce diversification in the state--by aggressively encouraging, identifying and transforming the inventions and discoveries generated by its researchers into commercially viable products and businesses. To continue this positive momentum, UH respectfully request that the sunset provision of Act 8, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, be repealed.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure.



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Committee: House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Bill Number: HB 2502
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2024, 2:05 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission **COMMENTING**
on HB 2502, Relating to Technology Transfer at the University of
Hawai'i

Aloha Chairs Perruso and Au Bellatti, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") offers **comments** on HB 2502, which removes the sunset provision to an existing law allowing the University of Hawai'i to commercialize technology and establish its own ethical standards overseeing such efforts.

The Commission understands that the University of Hawai'i developed and implemented various policies and procedures to effectuate technology transfer activities per Act 38 and Act 39. It does not believe any technology transfers have happened to date.

The Commission does not have further testimony on these matters at this time.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris
Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel