



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 Finance
Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

by

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HB 2502 HD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of HB 2502 HD1 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 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.

In order to continue this positive momentum, UH respectfully request that the sunset provision of Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, be repealed permanently through the passage of HB 2502 HD1.

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