



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 18, 2008 at 2:30 pm

by

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HCR 331/HR 272 REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CREATES A TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, III and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the subject resolutions, HCR 331 and HR 272, to create a Technology and Innovation Extension Service (TIES). In particular, we appreciate the confidence the drafters have placed in the University of Hawai'i and our capabilities.

The University must respectfully oppose the passage of this resolution at this time.

First, the establishment of such a capability that provides free services as outlined in the resolution would obviously incur substantial costs. As no funds are provided for this purpose, the University would not have the resources to create the TIES as described.

Second, we believe it would be premature for the University to unilaterally create a TIES for Hawai'i. We note that the Governor's Hawai'i Innovation Council has only been at work for 6 months, and may provide specific recommendations on how to improve support for innovation in Hawai'i within the context of a broader innovation initiative.

Third, we note that there are several bills under consideration by the Legislature this year that would require the development of a Science and Technology Plan for the State of Hawai'i. Such plans would also provide recommendations on how to develop Hawai'i's technology capabilities in accord with the goals developed.

The University of Hawai'i believes that the concept of a Technology and Innovation Extension Service for Hawai'i should be considered through the broader planning initiatives underway, which may also identify the resources necessary to develop such a capability. We therefore oppose the passage of the subject resolutions at this time.