

LATE

**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
April 6, 2009 at 1:20 pm
by
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SCR 122 and SR 80 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO

Chairs Tokuda and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Concurrent Resolution 122 and Senate Resolution 80 that urge the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) to consider the feasibility of establishing an office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED) at UH Hilo.

We support these resolutions with the understanding that they will help UH Hilo achieve our vision for establishing the VC-RED Office. Through a newly created VC-RED office, UH Hilo will be much better positioned to support the development and implementation of high impact research and undergraduate degree program initiatives that address State priorities, as well as providing essential research experiences for UH Hilo STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students to become a highly qualified and globally competitive S&T workforce.

Establishment of a fully functional VC-RED Office will significantly increase cost-effective utilization of grant indirect/overhead funds, serve as a focal point for all STEM education/training experiences and mentoring that are integrated with UH Hilo research projects, will support the growing research programs across departments at UH Hilo, be responsible for all budgeting/fiscal aspects of research grants, and allow both faculty and students to focus their efforts more directly on their research, education and training. VC-RED will also serve as a UH Hilo focal point for leading UHH efforts in S&T (science and technology) oriented economic development, encourage interdisciplinary activities and foster programs that promote S&T economic progress of the state. It will also provide the long-term strategic vision and oversight required for the expanding UHH research programs, and link these more directly to stimulation of STEM related economic development in Hawai'i.

Establishing a UH Hilo VC-RED Office will significantly advance our efforts in filling the niche for applied research that seeks to strongly link to both the undergraduate STEM education experience and S&T economic stimulation for Hawaii. Such a research enterprise will complement and strengthen the broader UH System as it addresses the critical needs of our State. UH Hilo is committed to establishing such an office as

quickly as possible, and we thank you for your support in this effort.

In order to help emphasize both the importance and value of UH System support for establishing a UH Hilo VC-RED Office, and provide minor clarification of certain points included in the draft resolutions, we respectfully offer modifications for your consideration in the following "track changes" enabled version of SCR 122.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on the importance of establishing a UH Hilo VC-RED Office.

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**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION (S.C.R. NO. 122)**

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the mission of the University of Hawaii at Hilo has evolved and expanded in recent years from a principally undergraduate teaching institution to one with a significant research focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo reports remarkable growth in its research effort in the first seven years of this decade, with increases of 462.5 per cent in funding and 341 per cent in the number of awards; and

WHEREAS, this growth has been supported in large part by grants ~~from~~ significantly enabled by the University of Hawaii at Hilo participation in the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); and

WHEREAS, the emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is an important alignment with the State's economic development goal of encouraging an innovation-based economy, which depends on providing students with the advanced skills necessary to succeed in a more complex society; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo established the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research position; and

WHEREAS, currently the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research is Dr. Michael Crosby, who is on sabbatical from his position as the Executive Director of the National Science Board; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Crosby's tenure, University of Hawaii at Hilo faculty, community leaders, and research support staff have developed a new synergy, a sense of collaboration, and partnership; and

WHEREAS, despite these successes, this interim position will cease to exist in January 2010; and

WHEREAS, establishing a permanent Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development will serve as a focal point for the provision, strategic leveraging, and coordination of administrative support services necessary to facilitate the growth and expansion of research efforts at the University as well as the successful application and award of grant funds and other extramural funds to support those research efforts, the research experiences of students, and the stimulation of science and technology businesses in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is urged to consider the feasibility of establishing an Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at Hilo include, but not be limited to, the following considerations regarding the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development:

- (1) The role of the Office as the overarching institutional focal point for the coordination of all undergraduate and graduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics mentorship programs and the integration of ongoing and future research projects;
- (2) The responsibility of the Office to increase the participation of underrepresented cultural, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups from the Pacific Islands in undergraduate and graduate education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;
- (3) The responsibility of the Office for all budgeting and fiscal aspects of research grants, including cost effective utilization of indirect/overhead funds generated by such grants, in order to allow both faculty and students to focus their efforts more directly on their research, education, and training;
- (4) The responsibility of the Office in oversight of compliance with federal and state policies, including post-award monitoring, effort reporting and audits, regarding research grants at the University of Hawaii at Hilo;

(54) The responsibility of the Office in leading the efforts of the University of Hawaii at Hilo in science and technology-oriented economic development, encouraging interdisciplinary activities, and fostering programs that promote the science and technology-related economic progress of the State; and

(65) The short-term and long-term funding requirements, including potential sources of federal, state, and private funds, necessary to establish and maintain the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, any related faculty, technical, and administrative positions, and any related ~~teaching~~training, laboratory, equipment, or other capital requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to report its findings and recommendations, including any budget requests and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, President of the University of Hawaii System, and Chairperson of the Board of Regents.