

SB2399

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii

Description: Requires all state agencies to obtain the governor's written approval on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project.

Companion: [HB1939](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: GVO/HEA, WAM

Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016
2:15 PM
State Capitol, Room 414**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2399
RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Senate Bill 2399 proposes to require that all state agencies obtain written approval from the Governor in order to request, amend, or supplement project services through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure and provides the following comments.**

The requirement of written approval by the Governor for any requests, amendments, or supplements to RCUH project services would result in significant additions to the procurement process, the Governor's workload, and diminish the Department's ability to timely respond to Hawaii's emerging natural resource needs and threats.

Currently, there is no classification in the state system that is comparable to the services contracted through RCUH. RCUH project services enables the Department to quickly contract limited term and highly specialized services. These are projects that often rely on Federal short term funding that require a high level of technical expertise. Many Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU - a sub-group of RCUH focusing on protecting and restoring Hawaii's native species, ecosystems, and cultural resources) projects leverage funding from multiple sources such as National Parks, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, Department of Defense- Army, etc., which reduces costs and increases time for partners to focus on projects and not the administration of them. Without access to specific technical skill sets in a short period of time, federal and other funds could be lost.

For instance, through PCSU contracts, the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) shares two ongoing highly specialized projects:

- 1) In conjunction with the Kauai Island Utilities Cooperative, DOFAW contracts a team of four (4) full time people to monitor and develop seabird collision avoidance techniques using radar and sonar equipment. Through this research, it was determined that there are over 1,000 bird strikes per year with cables and their infrastructure rather than what was believed to only be 100 strikes per year. On Kauai Island, DOFAW's entire wildlife biologist staff consists of four (4) people, so this project would not be possible without contracting specialists.
- 2) Through a partnership of funding sources, the Department supports the State's Invasive Ant Laboratory in Hilo on Hawaii Island. In large part, these positions are funded through PCSU contracts to support a group of experts focusing on developing rapid response protocols and methods to suppress and eradicate populations of invasive ants such as the Little Fire Ant (LFA). This team eradicated the LFA on Maui (though they have subsequently been reintroduced), are close to eradication on Kauai, and on Oahu eradicated them from Mililani and most from Waimanalo. DOFAW employs one (1) full time entomologist; making it impossible to implement extensive detection and suppression projects such as this.

There are many examples of RCUH or PCSU recruiting local professionals, both new to their career and seasoned experts. Allowing local opportunities to get hands on experiences in the management and science required to protect, conserve and perpetuate Hawaii's natural environment is vital to our future professional resources; many would leave Hawaii to find these opportunities elsewhere. The State regularly seeks out applicants with this kind of experience to fill civil servant positions.

The Department recognizes that establishing, filling, and recruiting for civil service positions is the ideal means by which to hire employees and to build state capacity. However, hiring a civil servant is not always a practical alternative, particularly for positions relying on federal funds.

In order to best inform the Governor, the Department can provide an annual report about the number of RCUH/PCSU contracts, their term length, and the process of converting some of them to civil servant positions. This would provide a more thorough understanding of the Department's need to be fully staffed with a unique blend of technical expertise, and the challenges we face to accomplish our mission.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Government Operations
and
Higher Education and the Arts
February 16, 2016 at 2:15 p.m.
by
Vassilis L. Syrmos
Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i

SB 2399 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII

Chairs Kim and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i offers the comment that the current Master Agreement between the State of Hawai'i and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) already requires that a state agency must obtain the Governor's prior written approval on all requests for RCUH's services, including amendments and supplements to such requests.

The University of Hawai'i does not believe it is necessary to also codify this requirement in statute and opposes this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.



The Committee on Government Operations
and
The Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

RE: SB 2399, Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i

Attention: Chairs Donna Kim and Brian Taniguchi,
Vice Chairs Les Ihara and Lorraine Inouye and Members of the Committee's

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) strongly urges both committee's to **oppose SB 2399**. This bill would deliver two devastating blows to the State of Hawai'i.

First, it would require the Governor's office to create an administrative department for the sole purpose of project review. The department would need to develop an appropriate rubric to be used to analyze project submissions; specific to the purpose and intent of each required hire.

Second, the astronomical impact this would effectuate on faculty to accomplish research projects is insurmountable. The time constraints alone would be detrimental to many research projects. The revenue stream that is generated through grants and other funding sources for many of the research projects is also severely diminished and should be taken into consideration. Finally, there is an adverse effect on retention of highly skilled research faculty and the ability to recruit quality faculty. When an academic void is created it may be difficult to recapture.

This two reasons suggest that perhaps the Governor is not the appropriate person to approve "request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project" as stated as an amendment to Chapter 76, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

UHPA strongly urges both committee's to **oppose SB 2399**.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
Executive Director

**University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly**



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Government Operations
Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 16, 2016

S.B. 2399 – Relating to the Research
Corporation of the University of Hawaii

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2399. This legislation statutorily codifies what currently exists in the Master Agreement between the State of Hawaii and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Unfortunately, state agencies and the RCUH are not complying with this contractual provision, therefore necessitating a statutory requirement.

In the Office of the Auditor's Report No. 15-07 dated June 2015, the Auditor concluded that improved oversight of projects is necessary to ensure the integrity of the services provided by the RCUH. The Auditor found that the RCUH allows state agencies to secure services without the required approval of the Governor, as set forth in the Master Agreement. Direct projects with the State of Hawaii require the Governor's approval before an agreement between a state agency and the RCUH can be executed. As a result, the RCUH is allowing state agencies to circumvent the state's civil service law (Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes).

We are aware of at least one state agency using RCUH employees to perform work that should be done by state civil service employees. This circumvention of the state's civil service law must not be permitted to continue. Consequently, we believe this legislation appropriately rectifies this problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2399.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: walt@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 2:07:24 PM
Attachments: [RCUH Testimony.rtf](#)

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Niemczura	HGEA AFSCME Unit 8 Board	Support	No

Comments:

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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations and
Committee on Higher Education & the Arts
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 2:15 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2399 RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chairs Kim and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **expresses some concerns regarding** SB 2399, which requires all state agencies to obtain the governor's written approval on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We take no position on the laws or guidelines in the management of the state's civil service workforce. We do express some concerns that this may inadvertently impact the ability for the University of Hawaii and other state agencies to utilize RCUH that helps bring in valuable research dollars into the state. These research dollars create high paying jobs and can have positive impacts in growing Hawaii's technology, innovation and science sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: adrian@cc.hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:41:06 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Franke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the efficient operations of my research projects and the jobs of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH.

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Cc: shor@soest.hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:45:47 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Shor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: SB 2399 will eliminate thousands of temporary positions at RCUH, almost none of which can be filled in other ways. It will shut down the two UH research vessels permanently. It will preclude allowing NOAA to support their annually-appropriated research programs through the Joint Institute (JIMAR). The objective, to support HGEA, will backfire, and the overall result of this legislation will be to further undermine the research enterprise at University of Hawaii and the important collaborative efforts among UH, RCUH and other state and federal agencies. PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!

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Cc: elkadi@hawaii.edu
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Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 10:46:20 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aly El-Kadi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: andrea@lhwrp.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 1:29:45 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea M Buckman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I oppose this bill. I have worked with the RCUH system for nine years and their services are essential to the conservation efforts our program is designed to implement. Adding such a high level of scrutiny to is an unnecessary burden to the Governor and will add additional administrative burden to the RCUH staff. I am concerned about the impacts this would have on the ability of the projects associated with RCUH to complete their deliverables in a timely manner. I appreciate your consideration. Mahalo, Andrea

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Cc: choyange@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:29:49 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Choy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: audgere@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 1:03:00 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Aloha no

We are writing in strong opposition to State Bill 2399. Though superficially appearing to be of benefit, this bill would actually have unintended and potentially crippling impact on our project, the Auwahi Forest Restoration Project which works to restore native watershed forests on 'Ulupalakua Ranch, Maui island. Though small, our project not only protects and restores valuable tracts of watershed forest but also has become a leader, recognized internationally, in development of forest restoration techniques.

We strongly believe in our work and our staff has dedicated much of their lives to this task. 'Ulupalakua Ranch and numerous public and private funders have and continue to contribute to this project. All the work we do is made possible with our collaboration with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, our UH partner. State Bill 2399 threatens this relationship, highly beneficial to the State of Hawai'i. As such, we urge you to oppose State Bill 2399.

Much thanks for your attention to this and your efforts to improve our State.

Respectfully, Art

Dr. Arthur Medeiros
Program Manager
Auwahi Forest Restoration Project

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To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: berniec@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 8:13:08 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernice Chong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB 2399

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Cc: boryann.liaw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:06:11 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Boryann Liaw	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 9:13:46 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda Kanno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Process is already in place which requires the Governor's approval before a State agency can use RCUH services so this legislation is not necessary. Thank you.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian N. Popp	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Bill SB 2399 will require: "that all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project." The master agreement between the state and RCUH already sets guidelines on how RCUH can work with state agencies, so SB 2399 introduces a major element of uncertainty. Any time UH wants to send a project to RCUH or to change it, a request has to go up the chain through the university and then through the executive office chain to the governor, then back down both to UH researchers. This will not be a quick process. It isn't clear what the criteria for the Governor's approval will be or how many layers will have to sign off, using what criteria, perhaps their own. Will there also be the risk that even if applications for federal or other awards are successful, researchers may not be able to use RCUH? There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH.

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Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:19:31 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Powell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill will greatly disrupt the research enterprise in Hawaii leading to an outflow of STEM jobs on the island.

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Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 5:22:28 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Taylor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 3:52:24 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Howe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote no on SB 2399. I work at the University of Hawaii and interact extensively with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). The whole purpose of RCUH as I understand it is to cut through state bureaucracy to enable research to function, with the short time scales it entails: "... research requires a much more flexible and streamlined method of operation than is permitted the usual operations of state agencies." Bill SB 2399 will require: "that all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project." The master agreement between the state and RCUH already sets guidelines on how RCUH can work with state agencies, so SB 2399 would introduce a major element of uncertainty and delay. Any time UH would want to send a project to RCUH or to change it, a request would have to go up the chain through the university and then through the executive office chain to the governor, then back down both to UH researchers. This would not be a quick process. It isn't clear what the criteria for the Governor's approval will be or how many layers will have to sign off, using what criteria, perhaps their own. Will there also be the risk that even if applications for federal or other awards are successful, researchers may not be able to run them through RCUH? There is every indication that SB 2399 would make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH. I strongly urge you vote against bill SB 2399.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl albright	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Bill SB 2399 will be heard on Tuesday by the Senate Higher Ed and Arts Committee. Bill SB 2399 will require: "that all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project." The master agreement between the state and RCUH already sets guidelines on how RCUH can work with state agencies, so SB 2399 introduces a major element of uncertainty. Any time UH wants to send a project to RCUH or to change it, a request has to go up the chain through the university and then through the executive office chain to the governor, then back down both to UH researchers. This will not be a quick process. It isn't clear what the criteria for the Governor's approval will be or how many layers will have to sign off, using what criteria, perhaps their own. Will there also be the risk that even if applications for federal or other awards are successful, researchers may not be able to run them through RCUH? There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UH Manoa through RCUH. I strongly oppose bill SB 2399.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chin Lee Nicolaides	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 7:20:33 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cyndy kahalewale	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not approve SB 2399. I am a PhD student, researcher and healthcare practitioner. It is my professional opinion that this bill should not be passed. thank you.

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Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 3:12:45 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Eisenberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: theatacamakid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 11:23:02 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Duffy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This will only create more paperwork and make Hawaiian science less competitive as researchers spend their time on pushing paper, rather than doing work. For myself, I have 400 employees at the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit at UH. We work on everything from basic research to endangered Hawaii species to stopping the spread of little fire ants, coqui and miconia. RCUH is essential to our work. If we have to get the governor's approval anytime we run a university program through RCUH, anytime we have to add money to it, any time we have to make a change, well there are not enough hours in the day. The bill will neither increase accountability or transparency, it will merely create more paperwork. Please kill the bill.

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Cc: david.ho@me.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 11:56:38 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Ho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 8:21:41 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deidree Barnum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I opposed SB 2399

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Cc: dennisc@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 8:10:34 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennnis Chong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB 2399

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Tuesday February 16, 2016

Conference Room 414

2:15 PM

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2399

Relating to the University of Hawaii

Submitted by:

Donald Thomas

I am a member of the research faculty at the University of Hawaii and have conducted applied and basic research on Hawaii's geology, groundwater, and geothermal systems for more than 40 years. I present the following testimony in opposition to SB 2399.

SB2399 requires that any services provided by Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii to any state agency, including the University of Hawaii, be approved by the Governor's office. This process would substantially delay and obstruct the ability of the University of Hawaii to conduct extramurally funded research, as well as State-funded research, through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii. The added administrative burdens imposed by this requirement would impair our ability to bring new funding resources to the University and, ultimately, result in a decline in the viability of research at the University and in Hawaii while serving no beneficial purpose. Legislators and others in Hawaii need to consider that researchers at the University of Hawaii must compete with every other research university in the country for extramural funding; anything that increases the administrative burden on the research enterprise or decreases its effectiveness, makes Hawaii all that less competitive and, ultimately, reduce the research funding that comes to the University. I ask that you not pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.

This testimony reflects my views alone and is not an official statement of the University of Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: dtonokawa@rcuh.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 8:28:07 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Tonokawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:27:13 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Earl Hishinuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I opposed SB 2399.

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Cc: enjoy@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 1:45:12 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Enjy El-Kadi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 11:45:08 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Firing	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The flexibility and responsiveness provided by RCUH is essential to the research and educational enterprise at UH, which in turn is of high value to the State. This bill would merely throw gravel in the gears, bogging down RCUH, researchers, and the governor. Surely the governor has more appropriate things to do than to sign off on each and every action involving changes in RCUH services for any project.

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Aloha,

This letter is in regards to SB-2399. As an employee and tax payer of the state of Hawai'i, I strongly oppose this bill as it will cripple the important watershed and conservation work needed for the state of Hawai'i, much of it funded by tax payers. The process to obtain approval from the governor for all projects run through the University will stall projects and make the timing of obtaining, securing and activating grant funds ineffective and uncompetitive. The great work conducted in cooperation with State funding and initiatives and with University of Hawai'i is only possible due to the important relationship with the University of Hawai'i as a human resources and logistical support partner.

This proposal although intended to provide greater oversight over public funds will have the unintended consequence of disabling important and time sensitive watershed and natural resource management work.

Thank you for your attention and consideration to oppose SB-2399

Erica von Allmen

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Cc: schloess@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 11:13:31 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fabian Schloesser	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It is my understanding that this bill would be extremely harmful to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) and the University of Hawaii (UH) research community in general by significantly increasing the administrative burden related to conducting research. I believe that it is in the interest of Hawaii and to us the people to strengthen and support this research community, and hence I oppose this bill.

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Cc: fpikake@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 10:54:46 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faten El-Telbany	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: zenigami@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:59:36 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fay Zenigami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:04:34 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garrett Apuzen-Ito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB 2399. The state and RCUH has a master agreement that already sets guidelines on how RCUH can work with state agencies. This new bill, however, introduces unnecessary added efforts and major uncertainty to the process. This bill would require that any time UH wishes to send a project to RCUH or to change it, a request must proceed up the chain through the university and then through the executive office chain to the governor, then back down both to UH researchers. This will not be a quick process. Further, it is unclear what the criteria for the Governor's approval will be or how many layers will have to sign off, using what criteria, perhaps their own. Will there also be the risk that even if applications for federal or other awards are successful, researchers may not be able to run them through RCUH? There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH. I urge you to vote against bill SB 2399. Sincerely, Garrett Apuzen-Ito

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Cc: grwilkens@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:40:10 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Wilkens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: kennethg@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:17:41 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. Kenneth Grace	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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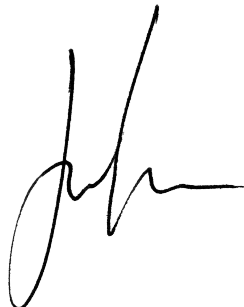
FROM: James Foster, Director, Pacific GPS Facility
Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology
TO: Committees on Higher Education and the Arts, and Governmental Operation
RE: **SB 2399** RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.
DATE: 12 February 2016

Senator Taniguchi, Senator Donna Kim and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address SB-2399. I am an Associate Researcher at the University of Hawaii and Director of the Pacific GPS Facility, focusing on developing applications of GPS to understanding and mitigating natural hazards.

I urge you not to pass this legislation. The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) is an essential component for research enterprise within the University of Hawaii. Guidelines for its function are already established in the master agreement between the state and RCUH. Reducing the ability of RCUH to operate efficiently by introducing additional legislation would increase the administrative workload, and significantly reduce its ability to support the UH research community.

Academic research is an extremely competitive field. Many of the most exciting research opportunities are available for only a limited time, and a rapidly responsive and efficient RCUH is essential to being able to grasp those opportunities when they present themselves. I have no doubt that in my area of research, where opportunities are often catalyzed by unpredictable natural hazard events (such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis etc), my ability to respond quickly to these types of events and undertake unplanned efforts that will allow me to secure future grants will be seriously impacted if this legislation were to be passed. This legislation will make me, and UH less competitive. I plead with you not to let this happen.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Foster', written in a cursive style.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: djtono@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 10:53:14 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane M. Tonokawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB 2399

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Yates	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose passage of SB 2399. Similar provisions are already in place and enacting SB 2399 would be redundant.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Hare	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This poorly thought out measure will stifle federal and state supported research at the RCUH. Further, it endangers the livelihood of 3000 Hawaiian residents, most of whom are highly educated, dedicated scientists and technicians doing good work on behalf of the public interest. The measure characterizes the ignorance of the process whereby RCUH projects are supported. Requiring projects to have the approval of the Governor's office is not only a frivolous layer of bureaucracy, but potentially creates unnecessary delays to employ high level staff to conduct the work.

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Cc: joewramos@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:21:22 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe W Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am concerned this will add to my administrative workload for my RCUH related work and will make UH less competitive overall.

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Cc: xfu@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:57:00 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Xiouhua Fu	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Bill SB 2399 will require: "that all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project." The master agreement between the state and RCUH already sets guidelines on how RCUH can work with state agencies, so SB 2399 introduces a major element of uncertainty. Any time UH wants to send a project to RCUH or to change it, a request has to go up the chain through the university and then through the executive office chain to the governor, then back down both to UH researchers. This will not be a quick process. It isn't clear what the criteria for the Governor's approval will be or how many layers will have to sign off, using what criteria, perhaps their own. Will there also be the risk that even if applications for federal or other awards are successful, researchers may not be able to run them through RCUH? There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH. Therefore, I am against this bill.

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Testimony Submitted to
Senate Committee on Government Operations
And Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Bill 2399
February 16, 2015, 2:15 pm, Room 414
Submitted by
Judith K. Inazu

Chair Mercado Kim and Vice Chair Ihara and Chair Taniguchi, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2399. My name is Judith Inazu and I am the Acting Director of the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have worked at the University of Hawaii for more than 31 years.

Oppose SB 2399,

SB 2399 requires that *all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project.*

Since we are a state agency, this bill would presumably apply to the University of Hawaii. RCUH was established to facilitate faculty in executing their grants in an efficient and time-sensitive manner. The Master Agreement between RCUH and the University establishes clear guidelines for RCUH and the University on service ordering UH projects to RCUH for procurement and staffing services. Nearly all of our extramurally funded projects are service ordered to RCUH so faculty are able to expeditiously fulfill the terms of their award. The proposed bill would create significant barriers to the timely execution of contracts and grants and add layers of bureaucracy to a system that already poses many challenges to faculty. We anticipate significant delays in fulfilling the terms of grants and contracts if approval by the governor to use the services of RCUH were added as a requirement.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB 2399.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: yates@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 8:23:45 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julian Yates	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB 2399..

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 6:22:39 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:30:14 AM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kazuyoshi Kikuchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: krterada@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 5:40:40 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kellie Terada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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RCUH is essential to our work. Passing of SB 2399 has the potential to slow down an already slow system – although faster than UH. We stand to lose funding if the processes for executing contracts are impacted with yet another layer of bureaucracy. The bill will make it significantly more difficult to use RCUH services and will require more of our time, when we should be doing our jobs. SB 2399 won't produce more transparency or accountability, it will only produce more paperwork and less productivity and efficiency.

Please, if there are processes that can be implemented to improve efficiency work toward that. Otherwise leave RCUH alone.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: rkellyn@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 6:15:50 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelvin Richards	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: krubin@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 7:14:28 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Rubin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill proposes to insert unnecessary, obstructionist, bureaucracy into the RCUH relationship with the enterprises it supports, which is primarily for research at UH. RCUH was established to be facile and responsive to the UH research enterprise. This bill will harm this enterprise by inserting onerous reporting and decision-making layers outside the normal channels (i.e., through the governor) that will have negative impacts on the timeliness of decision making and the quantity and quality of research conducted at UH via RCUH. The bill represents government overreach at its worst, by inserting unknowledgeable partisans into a process they should leave to the experts. RCUH works exceptionally well and the relationship with UH is strong and lawful. Why doesn't the senate find some real problems to solve, instead of wasting time on non-issues like this? Why insert more people into a decision tree that already works, when the people who will be inserted are already over-worked and inefficient at decision making? This bill is illogical and typifies what is wrong with the Hawaii legislative process. tsk. tsk.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Kelly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chairs Kim and Taniguchi, Vice-chair Ihara and members of the Committees on Higher Education and the Arts and Government Operations, This bill will add new layers of bueraucacy to an already complex project management system. There are no clear benefits from this bill and I urge you to defer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Binsted	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Pias	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Hee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Venenciano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loic Le Marchand	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill Will compromise the research mission of the University of Hawaii since it will slow down considerably or block the implementation of research which, overall brings hundreds of million dollars and many high quality jobs to the state. It will make UH researchers less competitive nationally and jeopardize the overall research enterprise of the state. Loic Le Marchand, MD, PhD Principal Investigator of the Multiethnic Cohort Study University of Hawaii Cancer Center

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Tschann	Individual	Oppose	No

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maw-Ying Yuan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the bill SB2399. Thank you. Maw-Ying Yuan District 7 Hawaii Kai

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Keller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Testimony Submitted to
Senate Committee on Government Operations
And Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Bill 2399
February 16, 2015, 2:15 pm, Room 414
Submitted by
Michael Hamnett

Chair Mercado Kim and Vice Chair Ihara and Chair Taniguchi, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Michael Hamnett and I am a non-compensated Researcher in the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Hawaii. I also served as Executive Director of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii from July 2004 until June 2015.

Oppose SB 2399,

SB 2399 will requires that *all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project.*

As a state agency, presumably this would apply to the University of Hawaii. As you are aware, RCUH was established to support the research and training activities at the University of Hawaii. The Master Agreement between RCUH and the University establishes clear guidelines for RCUH and the University on service ordering UH projects to RCUH for procurement and staffing services. If University of Hawaii faculty were required to obtain approval of the governor to service order a project and make amendments to a project agreement, the extramurally funded research and training activities at UH, including the \$ 1 million in contracts and grants for which I am the principal investigator, would come to a screeching halt.

For other state agencies, a Master Agreement also exists between the State and RCUH. That agreement has clear guidelines on the types of projects that can serviced by RCUH. That agreement already requires approval of the governor and a review by the Attorney General of proposals to have staffing and procurement services handled by RCUH. Almost all of the projects serviced by RCUH for state agencies are federally funded. The major motivation for state agencies to work through RCUH is that it can take six to nine months to hire project staff through the Department of Human Resources Development. Many of the federal grants staffed by RCUH employees only last one year and in order to fulfill the terms of the grants, state agencies rely on RCUH for staffing.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB 2399.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Long	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Approval of this SB2399 would lead to a significant waste of time for all parties involved: the State government and especially present and future projects working with the research corporation. I see no benefit to this bill. Please do not waste peoples' valuable time (and time = money) on such nonsense.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nada McClellan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB 2399. It won't produce more transparency or accountability; it will only produce more paperwork and less productivity and make it more difficult for us to effectively do our jobs.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nelson Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Niklas Schneider	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikolai Maximenko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Cooper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Testimony from Dr. Patricia Fryer regarding SB 2399

The changes to operations of the UHM RCUH would pose a damaging set of restrictions to researchers at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am dependant on being able to run efficient marine scientific research expeditions in order to perform research in my field. Often I and am required to effect rapid at-sea modifications to equipment and /or personnel in order to meet the objectives of projects funded by extramural federal funding agencies. This may include purchase of replacement equipment for something lost at sea, or may invovle repairs to ships or supplies that can only be obtained via a single vendor. It is not possible to operate under the resptrictions that this bill will impose on the marine sience research expeditions that are the foundation of my work. I strenuously oppose this bill!

Dr. Patricia Fryer
SOEST/HIGP,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, POST Bldg. #514B
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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Brandon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Chairs Mercado and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committees on Government Operations and Higher Education and the Arts, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in opposition to SB 2399, relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH).

My name is Paul Krushelnycky, and I am an Assistant Researcher in the Department of Plant and Environmental Protections Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am providing personal testimony on SB 2399.

RCUH is an extremely important entity supporting research at UH. Without the full range of its human resources and funding administration services, many research projects would be crippled. It provides important flexibility with a wide range of employment categories, and its efficiency and the expeditious nature of its human resource department are vital to initiating and completing projects that are often under considerable time constraints.

SB 2399 would essentially bring research at UH to a grinding halt, whether or not that is the intent of the bill. It would create an unprecedented amount of additional government bureaucracy that will be costly, paralyzingly slow, and ultimately will scuttle or prevent much valuable research in the state. This research brings in considerable sums of money, directly providing jobs to many citizens and both directly and indirectly supporting the local economy. This is in addition to the value of the research findings themselves, which address local agriculture, invasive species, human health, natural resource protection, and on and on.

This bill will increase the cost of government while greatly reducing the benefits of locally-based research, which seems to be a lose-lose proposition. I therefore strongly oppose this bill, and urge you to carefully consider both the intent and implications of its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in opposition to SB 2399.

Paul Krushelnycky

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This creates needless overhead for the government and university without adding any accountability or value.

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Testimony of Rachel Neville
Opposing SB 1939 Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i
Senate Committee on Government Operations and Higher Education and the Arts
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:15 PM Room 414

I oppose SB 1939 which would require new RCUH projects to be approved by the governor. I am an employee of RCUH and I love my job. My project gets partial funding from the state, but that funding is matched with federal and other funds that would not be subject to governor's approval. These funds all have deadlines, as does state funding and balancing everything takes up much of my time. This bill will make it worse. Its effect will be that RCUH employees will have less time to devote to ensuring successful project outcomes. Having to wait for governor's approval before we can start a project will hurt the efficacy of the project. If I have planned a project over a year timeline, but the funding gets held up and we have to spend and implement in only six months, the project won't be as successful.

Implementing this bill would only create another layer of bureaucracy that will hinder the good work that RCUH projects do. State funds that should be going towards improving the environment, natural resources, public health and research, will instead be spent navigating the bureaucracy in order to get projects approved. This bill would also put too much power in the hands of the governor. Would a research project that focused on HIV/AIDS rates or marriage among same-sex partners be rejected by a socially conservative governor? Research and science should not be subject to political approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Rachel Neville
Honolulu, HI

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zeebe, Richard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH. I strongly urge you to vote against bill SB 2399. Dr. Richard E. Zeebe

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the proposed bill sb2399. I believe this will create problems and lengthen the process for approval of projects done by RCUH.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Lukas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill, if enacted, *will* kill federally-funded research at the University of Hawaii. RCUH was created, and has worked very successfully, to support research in ways that the University cannot because of existing State of Hawaii statutes. Adding layers of bureaucracy, and delays, to the administrative procedures will severely handicap faculty in competing for ever-more-competitive research grants and contracts. I know this because I played important roles in building the University's research enterprise over the past 30 years. Though I formally retired in 2012, as an emeritus professor of Oceanography, I continue to manage grants and conduct research. Productive faculty conducting cutting edge research are essential to the health of any university. Productive faculty importing federal dollars (and high-tech jobs) to the State of Hawaii are essential for the health of the State. This bill will not help solve any existing problems with research in Hawaii, of which there are many. It will create further, insurmountable barriers to fulfilling the research promises made in successful research grants and contracts. There must be some other agenda here that has nothing to do with ensuring a healthy research enterprise in the State of Hawaii. Roger Lukas Emeritus Professor of Oceanography

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Fagents	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Yuan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Senators: I strongly oppose SB 2399. The action this bill calls for is currently in practice, which is established by the Master Agreement between the State and RCUH. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. Sarah Yuan, PhD Hawaii Kai, District 7

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarita Rai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This Bill if passed will not add to or create efficiencies in the system.
Please do not pass this bill.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Paapanen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Re SB 2399 – this amendment will cripple the ability of RCUH projects to administer county and federal grants in a timely fashion, and most likely result in the loss of jobs and closing of research projects. RCUH employees 4,000 people. Why are we adding another layer of bureaucracy to a heavily scrutinized system with many checks and balances? Why are we fixing something that isn't broken? Who is trying to exert control here? PLEASE VOTE NO! Mahalo.

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SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Businger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Mr. Taniguchi and Committee members, Bill SB 2399 will be heard on Monday by the Senate Higher Ed and Arts Committee. I know you are proponent of fiscal responsibility and limiting government overreach. Therefore, I trust that you will vote no on this onerous bill. Bill SB 2399 will require: "that all state agencies shall obtain the prior written approval of the governor on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project." The master agreement between the state and RCUH already sets guidelines on how RCUH can work with state agencies, so SB 2399 introduces a major element of uncertainty. Any time UH wants to send a project to RCUH or to change it, a request has to go up the chain through the university and then through the executive office chain to the governor, then back down both to UH researchers. This will not be a quick process. It isn't clear what the criteria for the Governor's approval will be or how many layers will have to sign off, using what criteria, perhaps their own. Will there also be the risk that even if applications for federal or other awards are successful, researchers may not be able to run them through RCUH? There is every indication that SB 2399 will make UH less competitive and less productive in competing for federal funds. SB 2399 will add substantially to the administrative workload. This bill threatens the security of the 4,000 people who work for the research enterprise at UHM through RCUH. I strongly implore you vote against bill SB 2399. Respectfully, Steven Businger

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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Government Operations
and Higher Education and the Arts

By
Dr. Sylvia Yuen

In opposition to SB 2399, Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii

Chairs Kim and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committees on Government Operations and Higher Education and the Arts: thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in opposition to SB 2239, Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.

I am Sylvia Yuen, the Executive Director of the RCUH. SB 2239 requires all state agencies to obtain the Governor's written approval on a request for, amendment to, or supplement to research corporation services for a project. However, the Master Agreement Between the State of Hawaii and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii provides that the State shall be responsible for obtaining "the Governor's prior written approval on all requests for the RCUH's services for a project, including amendments and supplements to such requests." In addition, the State is also required to "obtain the Department of the Attorney General's review as to whether use of RCUH services for the particular project is appropriate under applicable laws and, also, approval as to the form and content of the specific requirements described in the project agreement, including amendments and continuation thereof."

In short, the action called for in SB 2399 is currently in practice. The bill is, therefore, redundant and not necessary. I urge you not to approve SB 2239.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: tom.ranker@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2399 on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM*
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:03:36 PM

SB2399

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for GVO/HEA on Feb 16, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Ranker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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