



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
March 17, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

by

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HB 909 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this measure to establish a Center for Commercialization at UH for the benefit of the public and the state of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i and local business community have partnered on the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, a bold and proactive effort to help diversify the state's economy by building a thriving innovation, research, education and training enterprise -- to be driven by the growth of new industries in Hawai'i and fueled by UH's plans to aggressively commercialize its research over the next decade.

A key to the success of this initiative is the establishment of the Center of Commercialization, which will serve as a virtual umbrella that will encompass grant development/commercialization/innovation related programs to increase efficiencies, effectiveness and success necessary for the establishment of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at UH.

Under the "quarterbacking" of the Center of Commercialization, the Strategic Grants Development office will provide system-wide strategic direction and coordination to increase grant funding in national science and technology funding priority areas. These priority areas will be further reinforced by faculty encouraged by a reinvented Office of Technology and Economic Development to file invention disclosures and to seek commercialization opportunities through the award-winning XLR8UH accelerator.

To help maximize the impact of the Center for Commercialization, UH continues to urge the Legislature to allow the concurrent passage of measures on commercialization and technology transfer that will enable UH to start the program initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
and the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Friday, March 17, 2017 at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 909 HD2 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Wakai and Kahele, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 909 HD2, which establishes a Center for Commercialization at the University of Hawaii to commercially use intellectual property generated from research at the University for the benefit of the State and its residents.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ 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.

The University of Hawaii is the state's public institution supporting an array of programs and is considered a leading research university. Much of the research produced by these many fields has strong commercial potential that has not been capitalized. In order to reach its full potential, UH needs to proactively move these research projects to commercialization in order to become a major contributor to the state's economy and workforce. This bill would establish the Center for Commercialization and create the second state agency with this capability that could help move projects along and achieve maximum commercial potential within the University.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.