



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

by

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

HB 909 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure.

As you are well aware of, the economy of Hawai'i is highly dependent on the tourism sector and military spending. To help diversify the state's economic portfolio, the business community identified research and innovation as a third economic sector to be developed.

In response, 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. The center will encompass the Strategic Grants Development Office, Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development and the XLR8UH proof of concept center/venture accelerator – to help “quarterback” the three interwoven entities in assisting new strategic hires and current faculty with extramural funding, entrepreneurship and commercialization.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this bill, but feels that it is also important for the Legislature to concurrently allow passage of measures like HB 166 and HB 1156 that will enable UH to start the programs initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization. These two efforts can complement each other -- with the operational program serving as a working pilot toward the permanent establishment of the Center for Commercialization at UH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

keohokalole2 - Anthony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:40 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB909 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM*

HB909

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

by
Brandon Marc Higa (as current law student)

HB 909 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee:

My name is Brandon Marc Higa, a second year law student at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen and not in my capacity as a current member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents member.

I am writing in support of the HB 909, HB 166, and HB 1156 as integral measures to support the University of Hawaii's efforts to achieve its ambitious goals in the Hawaii Innovation Initiative.

In particular, I am in support of HB 909's underlying purpose to provide timely and efficient commercialization of intellectual property created by basic and applied research at the university as a driver of economic health and diversification for the State of Hawaii.

The proposed Center for Commercialization is necessary for the University of Hawaii to proactively build the infrastructure needed to foster an environment conducive to innovation among faculty, students, and community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these measures.

Respectfully submitted: January 31, 2017.

s/Brandon Marc Higa