



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
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 1:20 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

LATE

**RE: SENATE BILL 138 RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT 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** SB 138, which makes certain sections of the State Code of Ethics inapplicable to technology transfer activities sponsored by University of Hawaii if the activities comply with the regulatory framework and research compliance program approved by the Board of Regents; requires the Board of Regents to submit written status reports.

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 Chamber supports SB 138 as it would help expedite the commercialization of research from the University of Hawaii to provide information that would strengthen the local economy. This bill helps remedy many obstacles that currently exist from broad conflict of interest, fair treatment, and employment restrictions. Clarifying the State Ethics Code would prevent the deterrence of an efficient technology transfer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.