



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committees on Lower and Higher Education
and
Economic Development and Business
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by
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HB 721 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII DEVELOPMENTS

Chairs Woodson and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Hashem, Perruso and Kitagawa, and members of the Committees:

The University of the Hawai'i (UH) is in support of HB 721, Relating to University of Hawaii Developments.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the UH to enter into public service ventures and create an Office of Strategic Partnerships and Development to coordinate and manage public service ventures that will benefit UH.

The goal of public service ventures is to capitalize on the strengths and assets of each sector (public and private) to help deliver a project or service more efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the general public. These types of ventures are increasingly found in the higher education sector, and examples include campus redevelopment and expansion, student housing development, physical plant infrastructure, and facility maintenance.

The UH System is agreeable to the approach contemplated in this bill. The University has already embarked on establishing a program and strategy to monetize underutilized University properties. While still only a fledgling concept, we are looking at what resources can be cobbled together internally to undertake this effort. The concept of the Office of Strategic Planning and Development is very much in alignment with the University's efforts in this regards. Funding and position support provided in this bill will also help jump start this effort.

The Office of Strategic Planning and Development will:

- a) help ensure that venture opportunities are properly analyzed, evaluated, coordinate, overseen, and managed;
- b) allow UH to become a recognized educational and research resource on public service ventures to provide opportunities for faculty and students to learn and participate in management and oversight; and
- c) foster innovation and increase revenue generating opportunities together with exploring ways to maximize efficiency and reduce costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.