



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 201 SD1 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS THE UNIVERSITY'S: (1) TENURE SYSTEM FOR RESEARCHERS AND OTHER NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY; AND (2) COMPENSATION STRUCTURE OF FACULTY ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY EXTRAMURAL FUNDING AND GRANTS; IN COMPARISON TO PEER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, AND PROPOSE THE BEST PRACTICES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 201, Senate Draft 1.

As the resolution notes, tenure is critical for recruitment, advancing knowledge, and for academic freedom. The University of Hawai'i welcomes the opportunity to further investigate its policies and procedures regarding tenure in relation to its peers and looks forward to working with the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly to address the points found in the resolution.

We respectfully request that "or designee" be added to the task force members who do not have that option (page 5), such as for the Board of Regent's Chair, the President, and the Vice President for Research and Innovation to make those members consistent with the rest of the task force members. While participation of these individuals is important, having the option for a designee allows for the important work of the task force to proceed without being hindered by the schedules of some of the members.



ASHFORD + WRISTON
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

BENJAMIN A. KUDO
Telephone: (808) 539-0400
Fax: (808) 533-4945
bkudo@awlaw.com

April 6, 2021

To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology

From: Benjamin A. Kudo
Ashford & Wriston
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SCR 201, SD1 – Urging the University of Hawaii and University of Hawaii Professional Assembly to Convene a Task Force to Examine and Assess the University’s: (1) Tenure System for Researchers and Other Non-instructional Faculty; and (2) Compensation Structure of Faculty Engaged in Activities Supported by Extramural Funding and Grants; in Comparison to Peer Higher Education Institutions Across the United States, and Propose the Best Practices to be Implemented by the University - **SUPPORT**.
Hearing date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021
Hearing time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and support of SCR 201, SD1 regarding the convening of a task force to study (1) tenure for researchers and other non-instructional faculty; and (2) the compensation structure of faculty engaged in activities supported by extramural funding and grants.

The Board of Regents recently established a permitted interaction group (“PIG”) comprised of regents, UHPA, administration and others to study tenure at the University. The scope of the regent’s PIG is broader than the task groups under SCR 201, SD1, but we believe that both efforts will be complimentary as we strive to determine what tenure should be and how it fits into the University’s long-term vision.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend your favorable consideration of SCR 201, SD1.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON


Benjamin A. Kudo

MAILING ADDRESS
Post Office Box 131 / Honolulu, HI 96810

STREET ADDRESS

First Hawaiian Center / 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 / Honolulu, HI 96813
T 808 539 0400 / F 808 533 4945 / E atty@awlaw.com / www.ashfordwriston.com

SCR-201-SD-1

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Testimony for HET on 4/7/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annika Nozaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student at the University of Hawai'i and I SUPPORT SCR 201. All other Universities around the country whether they are research universities or not do NOT tenure their research faculty. The University of Hawai'i claims that they prioritize students education but instead they are wasting general funds and our tuition money on researchers tenure that is not necessary for high achievement in research seen all across the country at Universities like MIT.