



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

by

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

SCR 202/SR 167 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRACTICES AND POLICIES REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS AND PERCENTAGES OF EXTRAMURAL FUNDING UTILIZED FOR COMPENSATION OF FACULTY ENGAGED IN EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES WITH CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AND APPROACHES AT ITS PEER INSTITUTIONS

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the Legislature's interest to help UH assess its current practices and policies in extramural funding compensation for faculty and how it compares with national best practices and approaches found at peer institutions.

The University of Hawai'i looks forward to working with the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly to address the points found in the resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



The Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 25, 2021
3:00 Video Conference Room 229

RE: SCR 202/ SR 167 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRACTICES AND POLICIES REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS AND PERCENTAGES OF EXTRAMURAL FUNDING UTILIZED FOR COMPENSATION OF FACULTY ENGAGED IN EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES WITH CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AND APPROACHES AT ITS PEER INSTITUTIONS.

Attention: Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) offers the following comments and concerns over the language and intent of Resolutions SCR 202/ SR 167

While UHPA appreciates the intent of the resolutions requesting the University of Hawai'i and UHPA to convene a working group to conduct an assessment of current practices and policies regarding required percentages of extramural funding, there are caveats in the resolution that would interfere with UHPA's statutory collective bargaining rights as the exclusive bargaining representatives. Moreover, a portion of the matters to be reviewed under the resolution are subjects that have been bargained and agreed upon in the current 2017-2021 UHPA/Board of Regents Unit 7 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Nevertheless, we believe that the opportunity to compare and contrast the University of Hawai'i, a designated Carnegie 1 Research Institution of Higher Education, with their peer institutions can assist in ensuring best practices are reviewed and applied appropriately while still honoring existing contracts and statutory collective bargaining rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony over our organizations comments and concerns over these proposed resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Website: www.uhpa.org