



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Friday, February 2, 2024 at 2:05 p.m.

by

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HB 2503 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of HB 2503 that would remove the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2017, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i (SSLH) 2021, set for June 30, 2024.

This law, currently codified in sections 1951 through 1959 of HRS Chapter 304A, provides UH with the express statutory authority to sponsor and directly participate in the transformation of innovations created by its researchers into viable commercial enterprises.

The state's experience with the recent pandemic clearly demonstrated that it remains heavily dependent on a few economic sectors. As the state's only public system of higher education, UH plays a critical role in helping to diversify the economy by promoting research, discovery and commercial innovation. To remain competitive, it is imperative for UH to have a strong and comprehensive university level research program with the capacity to support commercial innovation.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 39, SLH 2017, as amended by Act 8, SSLH 2021, be repealed.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure.