



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means
Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

by
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University of Hawai'i System

SB 1218 SD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of SB 1218 SD1.

In 2017, the Legislature backed UH's efforts to promote the commercialization of inventions and discoveries generated by its faculty, students and alumni by giving UH the responsibility to ensure that the technology transfer activities it sponsors comport with principles embodied in the State Ethics Code. Pursuant to Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, University of Hawai'i sponsored technology transfer activities would be exempt from specific sections of the State Ethics Code so long as these technology transfer activities were subject to ethic policies and a compliance program established by UH specifically adapted to the unique features of university-generated innovations. Unfortunately, this much-needed authority granted to UH under Act 38 sunsets on June 30, 2022.

The University of Hawai'i has issued a Regents Policy, an Executive Policy, and has drafted administrative procedures to require and assure compliance with an "Act 38" management plan. This management plan is designed to identify, address, and mitigate conflicts of interest that arise during technology transfer activities involving UH faculty. To date, UH has successfully implemented the Act 38 policies and procedures for three faculty startups.

As the University of Hawai'i has established and is implementing the necessary policies and procedures that ethically govern its technology transfer activities, <https://www.hawaii.edu/research/ethics/>, UH respectfully request that the sunset provision of Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, be extended for three years as amended in SB 1218 SD1.

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

SB-1218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:54:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB1218 SD1. What you got to hide?

Technology is patented and there is no reason that it should be hidden from the public unless there is hanky pancky going on.



LATE

Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee of Ways and Means

Date: March 4, 2021
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY

By Kau‘i Burgess

Director of Community and Government Relations

RE: SB1218, SD1 - Relating to Technology Transfer at the University of Hawai‘i

Aloha mai e ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Dela Cruz, ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Rhoads, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keith-Agaran, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keohokalole, a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike.

We are writing in **SUPPORT** of SB1218, SD1, which repeals the sunset provision in Act 38, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to make permanent certain provisions relating to technology transfer by the University of Hawai‘i.

Kamehameha Schools believes that our educational mission is best achieved in a society that supports and enables the success of our learners. One significant component of such a society is a resilient local economy. Unfortunately, as we have seen in the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, our economy has room to improve to ensure it can withstand acute and chronic stresses.

We further believe that education can play a significant role in improving economic resilience. Commercialization of innovation occurring at our institutions of higher education is one opportunity for such improvement. Allowing the flexibility provided through Act 38 to continue enables the University of Hawai‘i to further facilitate equitable and ethical technology transfer to the private sector, which in turn can support economic development, diversification, and resilience.

Accordingly, we kindly request you **PASS SB1218, SD1**.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Mahalo nui!