



Research Corporation
of the University of Hawai'i

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

SB2304 SD1 — RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 2304 SD1 and stands by its previously submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education (see page 2).

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

Leonard R. Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director



TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
February 3, 2022, 3:00 pm

SB2304 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 2304 as we do not feel that the proposed changes are necessary or appropriate at this time.

During the last legislative session this committee requested that UH utilize a Task Force to address the committee's concerns raised in [SR148 SD1](#) and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations. This has since been completed and at your request, Dr. Vassilis Syrmos submitted the [task force report](#) and its recommendations prior to the start of this legislative session.

Efforts are currently underway to address the committee's concerns. RCUH has also publicly committed to evaluating and evolving our operations to ensure that we are working in better alignment with UH, and within the scope of our intended purpose, as reflected in our [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). We respectfully request that the Senate Higher Education Committee allow RCUH the time to do our due diligence and work with UH to ensure an outcome that is conducive to supporting UH researchers appropriately, efficiently, and in a cost-effective manner.

By altering the RCUH statute at this time, it is likely to result in unintended consequences that will adversely impact UH, RCUH, and most importantly, the continued success of research in this state. This is especially troubling as it is being proposed during one of the most difficult financial periods this state has had to endure.

In conclusion, I respectfully oppose this bill and request that this committee give RCUH and UH the time necessary to evaluate and implement changes in accordance with the task force report.

Sincerely,

Leonard R. Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

SB 2304 SD1 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the Hawai'i State Legislature's intent to help provide clarity to the purpose of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) through SB 2304 SD1 but opposes the measure.

In order to address the concerns of the Legislature, both UH and RCUH have been diligently working together on the governing executive and administrative policies to clarify the relationship between the two entities.

In addition to research, about 40-45 percent of UH's annual extramural awards are for non-research projects such as training grants and student development and support grants, to name a few. Many of these projects are federally funded and are equally deserving of effective, efficient and prompt services so that UH can meet the terms and conditions of the grants.

RCUH is a key resource in UH administering these non-research grants and contracts and is why historically HRS 304A-112 referred to sponsored research and training.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
February 24, 2022
10:00 a.m., via Videoconference

Comments on SB 2304 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **submits these comments on sections of SB 2304 SD1, Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH).**

As this bill notes, RCUH was established in 1965 for the purposes of, *“promoting, encouraging, initiating, developing, and conducting scientific research and investigation in all branches of learning, and disseminating to the public, the benefits of such research and investigation.”* This language provides a mechanism for agencies and the University of Hawai'i to attract and use federal, state, county, and private foundation grants to work together on many applied-research projects to the benefit of public trust resources and the people of Hawai'i. A short list of some of these “projects” include the Invasive Species Committees of Hawai'i, Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project, Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project, Plant Extinction Prevention Program, Hawai'i Ant Lab, the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, and many others. Each of these groups conducts applied research and disseminates knowledge to partners and the public through a variety of formats to reach different audiences.

This bill may limit these important projects by changing the purpose of RCUH, *“...to promote educational, scientific, and literary pursuits through research, training of research personnel, and dissemination of knowledge by publication of research findings, and its undertakings shall be limited to acts that are reasonably necessary to carry out this purpose.”*

In addition, CGAPS has long advocated for increased state support for civil service positions for prevention and control of invasive species, as well as for outreach to the public. In part, the dire needs for applied research on resource protection, coupled with a lack of capacity in agencies drives the need for RCUH. As such, we are concerned with changes that could jeopardize RCUH as one of the few gap-filling solutions available. CGAPS has no comments on other sections of the bill. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

SB-2304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:30:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Donald Thomas | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

My name is Donald Thomas and I am, and have been, a member of the research faculty of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology for 42 years. During that time, I have been actively engaged in research that has brought more than \$40 million dollars of research funds to the University of Hawaii. Some of those research results have generated more than \$200 million dollars of investment to Hawaii. I have also brought extramural training funds to the University of Hawaii that have allowed me to provide training programs for Hawaii's teachers, for outreach to our communities on STEM subjects as well as natural hazards awareness and preparedness, and to offer professional training courses to civil officials from developing countries throughout the Pacific Basin to assist those countries in protecting their citizens lives and economies from the devastating impacts of volcano hazards.

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii has provided essential fiscal management and reporting support to those extramurally funded research and training programs. I oppose Senate Bill 2304 because it will preclude my ability to continue offering needed, STEM and humanitarian oriented training programs to Hawaii's teachers, to their students, to our communities, and to our colleagues in developing countries who already have far too few opportunities to receive essential training support for their natural hazards management and humanitarian efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony. The opinions expressed are my own and do not reflect an official position of the University of Hawaii or any other organization.

Donald Thomas

Director, Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes

SB-2304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:07:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amy Brinker | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Support