



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

by

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

**SB 3267 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 3267 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Research Corporation
of the University of Hawai'i

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

SB3267 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 3267 SD1 and stands by its previously submitted testimony to the Senate committees on Higher Education and Labor, Culture and the Arts (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 & SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
February 10, 2022, 3:00 pm

SB3267 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 3267.

By eliminating the line “pursuant to rules adopted by the board of regents,” this implies that the automatic service ordering of extramural contracts and grants to RCUH (per [Regents Policy 12.207](#)) would be suspended, and an additional layer of review would be required to determine which projects are designated as “research and training.” This is likely to result in significant delay to the processing of extramural contracts and grants and the efficient establishment of accounts for researchers.

It is also important to note that the language in Section 1.C is ambiguous and requires clarification as to whether or not it is intended for this to be a one-time review, or an ongoing review, for each position request. The latter would require employee unions to review approximately 1,500 recruitments every year, adding another impediment and further delays for researchers.

Although RCUH is not opposed to working with unions and ensuring conformance of positions with exceptions to collective bargaining, the proposed changes in this measure are unnecessary as RCUH has already developed a vetting process with the University through the [Attachment B review/approval process](#), which is applicable to nearly all UH service ordered projects (there are a few projects who received an Attachment B exemption from the University). Per [RCUH Policy 3.234](#), all Regular-status positions require an Attachment B to be reviewed and approved by the respective Dean/Director, before proceeding to the UH Office of Human Resources (OHR) for review and approval. OHR rejects positions/jobs that appear to be similar to UH APT jobs or do not meet the definition in “Direct Support of Research and Training.” Following OHR’s review, the Attachment B is routed to the UH Vice President for Research & Innovation (VPRI), who has final institutional approval for each request and the ability to override OHR rejections.

Additionally, the University of Hawai'i has another safeguard in place per [AP 12.203](#), which states that “any covered type of position that is continuously filled by an RCUH employee for three years shall be subject to review and re-authorization by the UH Office of Human Resources and VPRI.” We feel that these are sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that RCUH positions are not being inappropriately established. If any union feels that this process needs to be revised, we would be more than happy to work with the union, and UH, to address any concerns.

In conclusion, if this bill were to advance, it would create additional layers of bureaucracy and cause significant impacts for researchers who are already limited on time and much needed support to execute their projects. For these reasons, RCUH respectfully opposes SB3267 to prevent any negative impact on the UH research community, which continues to bring in millions of federal dollars into our state’s economy.

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

Sincerely,

Leonard R. Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director