

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
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M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
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ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 9, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1511
RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII

Senate Bill 1511 proposes to clarify the purpose of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i and that its undertakings shall be limited to acts that are reasonably necessary to carry out its purpose. This bill proposes to: 1) repeal the requirement that the University of Hawai'i contract with the Research Corporation when the University determines that other various agencies cannot more effectively or efficiently accomplish certain research and training activities; 2) grandfather existing Research Corporation contracts 3) require new contracts be subject to new limitations; authorizes the Research Corporation to conduct certain minor renovation projects at costs of \$2,000,000 or less; 4) require revolving accounts to follow Corporation policies; and 5) require biannual reports to the Legislature regarding internal service orders and revolving accounts of the Research Corporation that utilize University of Hawai'i intramural funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments on this measure.**

The Department recognizes that this bill intends to provide clarity to the purpose of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH), but the Department has concerns about how each state project or program involving the RCUH and each project or program involving the RCUH and a state employee be required to consult with an exclusive representative of the appropriate bargaining unit to review conformance of the position or program will impact grant timelines and deliverables. The Department applies for and receives numerous competitive federal grants that require completion within a limited time. The bill's requirement will significantly delay the project initiation and hiring process using federal grants because these

grant periods do not provide enough time for procurement procedures to hire staff, consultation with bargaining unit representatives, and grant deliverables to be completed. This means the Department will be unable to meet the grant requirements and will have to return considerable federal funding unused. Since the Department relies heavily on federal grants to implement its protection of natural and cultural resources, this bill language will cripple our ability to fulfill our mission.

The Department suggests amending the bill to remove the requirement for that:

SECTION 2. Section 304A-112, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows: "[§304A-112] Contracts for services provided by the research corporation of the University of Hawaii

~~(c) For each state project or program involving the research corporation and each project or program involving the research corporation and a state employee, the university shall consult with the exclusive representative of the appropriate bargaining unit to review conformance of positions with exceptions to collective bargaining. The corporation shall not supplant civil service employees, and if any civil service employees or programs actively employ civil service employees, the corporation shall provide justification to the governor for each civil service position accepted, list the program affected in its next report to the legislature, and obtain approval from the governor prior to hiring."~~

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

by

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

SB 1511 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 1511.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
February 9, 2023, 3:00 p.m.**

SB1511 – 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 1511 as we do not feel that the proposed changes are necessary, reasonable and/or appropriate at this time. We have evaluated and considered all of the issues expressed and identified by this committee during the 2022 legislative session. We have also been working very closely with the University of Hawai'i to take specific action on many of the items listed in the 2021 UH Task Force Report for SR 148 SD1.

We respect this committee's viewpoints and the intention of this Act, but the suggested changes are concerning as we strongly believe these changes to the statute would create unintended consequences and hardship for our research community. We must remember that RCUH was created to enhance research by hiring personnel and procuring goods for research projects in an expeditious manner, not create more unreasonable administrative burdens and barriers that are typical with many state agencies. We therefore ask that you allow RCUH to continue to work with the University and respective bargaining units to determine the most appropriate path forward to support Hawai'i's research community.

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

Sincerely,

Leonard R. Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director

SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2938

Phone: (808) 537-5619 ✦ Fax: (808) 533-2739

February 9, 2023

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Conna Mercado Kim, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: S.B. 1511 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii. The SAH represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL AND AIR CONDITIONING NATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

We oppose a section of this bill.

Our objections lie on page 12 with item 16 which allows minor renovation projects to be done of \$2,000,000 or less in cost. I realize that the legislature oftentimes deals in great sums of money however there are a variety of small contractors that deal in small projects. This affects them. They take these jobs because it does not take as much time to do, the staging is not as complex and the payment periods are not quite as long.

Additionally, language on page 13, line 15 provides for an exemption from Chapter 103D; the Procurement Code. The Procurement Code was passed by this legislature in order to provide for an equal playing field. We realize that it is oftentimes difficult to cope with but "fairness" is that way. The Procurement Code has, over the years been amended in order to provide some protections for subcontractors as they deal with the government. We don't believe that those protections should be lifted or excepted.

Based on the above and with our objections to those two (2) sections, we oppose the bill as it is currently written.

Thank you.

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:56:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Ogawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On the second page of the SB1511, it states that RCUH "has gradually expanded its undertakings into areas beyond its original eponymous purpose." A brief explanation in the form of bullet points as to how RCUH has breached the original intentions of the legislature may help to clarify the purpose of the bill.

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 2:12:12 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 1511

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:05:54 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikolai Turetsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1511. I believe RCUH is doing a good job. Adding burdensome restrictions will only make RCUH more like the incapable and incompetent state government agencies it was created to circumvent :)

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:08:12 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

My apologies that this is not in the proper form but I have to prepare to teach my class tomorrow on the Natural History of Hawaii.

Briefly this bill should be pulled and reworked as it may do damage as presently worded. I brought in roughly \$2 million dollars in research funds last year to UH. This bill might make this impossible in the future.

The bill requires consultation with the unions on each and every RCUH hire. RCUH has something like 3,000 employees. Will the unions have the time and resources to do such reviews? Similarly the bill requires RCUH to "obtain approval from the governor prior to hiring" of personnel for research projects.

How long will this take? Most grants are only for a year at a time. A three or six month delay in hiring, as now happens with state hires, will make Hawaii uncompetitive for federal and foundation research grants.

Also the draft requires the federal government to **document** that the university or any other agency of the State cannot accomplish the purpose of the funds awarded to RCUH. I am not a lawyer but is it within the powers of the Senate or even the state to require the United States of America to do anything?

If the state needs to revise RCUH's mission, perhaps best to start with a working group comprised of researchers, lawyers and legislators to look at what is needed and craft something appropriate. The current effort has language that inadvertently may do damage to the state's research enterprise and economy and to the reputation of the Senate.

With respect,

David Cameron Duffy Ph.D.

Fellow AAAS

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:23:35 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia C Ballard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cynthia Ballard and I oppose SB 1511

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:30:40 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. This is a bad bill and will cripple state government operations and result in a massive amount of government bureaucracy.

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:01:06 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Daniel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill SB1511. I have been a Professor at the University of Hawaii for 37 years, and during that time I have been the Principal Investigator on millions of dollars of federal research and training contracts. These projects have benefited the State of Hawaii by funding programs that prepare Hawaii’s youth for college, and provide research and training to improve Hawaii’s business and economic development. These competitive grants had deliverables and deadlines that required that we collaborate with universities across the US, as well as provide international training for US students and faculty. I have also been the administrator for revolving funds administered through the RCUH relating to these programs.

Prior to and during my academic career as an accounting professor, I have also been a licensed CPA and I am very familiar with best practices in accounting and administration. Most of these federal grants were “service ordered” to RCUH to facilitate the administration of programs abroad, retention of experts for short-term training and seminars, and activities with organizations outside the UH. The language of SB1511 would greatly impair the ability of the university and its faculty to conduct business in a competitive manner with our peer institutions. This is because it is almost impossible to execute international hotel and vendor contracts through the university system on a timely basis. RCUH provides not only employment related matters, but also contracts for events held in foreign locations, such as training, conferences and consortia events involving foreign universities.

The language of SB1511 seems to ignore the fact that limitations to the hiring of non-bargaining unit personnel at RCUH were already made a number of years ago. Therefore there are already provisions that limit the ability of UH projects to hire non-bargaining unit personnel through RCUH for positions that can be filled through hiring UH bargaining unit personnel. (Specifically, a number of years ago several of my employees were moved from RCUH positions to UH positions.) Therefore, the bill is not necessary with respect to employment matters.

Furthermore, the language of the SB1511 would require external parties, including the US government and foreign entities, to certify that the University of Hawaii or the State of Hawaii is unable to successfully administer contracts. Such a requirement would be embarrassing to try to implement and is unworkable because no funding agencies would be willing to provide such a certification, nor would they provide funding to an organization that is unable to execute the contract. I can think of no organization who would have a mechanism to provide any such certification, nor would they ever want to get involved in such attestations.

SB1511 also seems to be confused about the fact that almost all of the external funding contracts and grants UH receives are directly between the University and the Funding Agency. This is because the actual operations and execution of the contract are indeed performed by the University of Hawaii. After the contract is awarded to the University of Hawaii, then a determination is made by the university as to whether there is a benefit or advantage for the university to contract with RCUH to administer certain aspects of the contract. Such administrative arrangements between the UH and RCUH are referred to as “service ordering” the contract from the University to RCUH. The approval of service orders to RCUH is a carefully considered decision by the university administration. In most cases the university remains the primary contractor with the Funding Agency.

In summary, I strongly oppose SB1511 because it is poorly formulated, completely unnecessary, and represents a gross misunderstanding about the role of RCUH and the relationship between the University and RCUH. Passing SB1511 would result in the loss of grant funds, loss of highly qualified faculty, and result in UH becoming less competitive, and less prestigious among institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

Shirley J Daniel

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:18:35 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaya Honarvar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1511, relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:47:07 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Knox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 1511. RCUH has provided a successful framework for research-based conservation work throughout the Hawaiian Islands for more than 30 years. Attached to the University of Hawaii, RCUH provides essential and effective financial management and human resources services to UH and other public agencies.

In addition to research and training projects funded by extramural contracts and grants, RCUH has supported projects funded by local, state, and federal funds. These projects protect nearshore and pelagic marine environments and terrestrial ecosystems, document the effects of climate change, help mentor new farmers, and work with students and teachers in elementary schools and graduate programs. Examples of specific projects that could be affected by this bill include the island-based Watershed Partnerships, Invasive Species Committees, Forest Bird and Seabird Recovery Projects, sea urchin hatcheries, and propagation of endangered plants and snails. All of these projects are research-based, with strong connections to the University of Hawaii. But the bill, as written, could have the unintended consequence of shutting down projects that also include management actions. It is unlikely that projects and funders could quickly shift to some other framework. These projects generate many jobs, provide pathways to new careers, and pump millions of dollars annually into the local economy. As drafted, this bill could cause thousands of local, hardworking residents to lose their jobs, lives would be upended, and decades of work to protect native places and our quality of life would be lost.

A major change like this should not be taken without thinking through the unintended consequences that will surely follow. Please do not move this bill forward.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Testimony of
Donald Thomas
Before the Senate Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION
Thursday, February 9, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference
In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1511
RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

I am presenting my testimony in **OPOSITION** to SB1511 as currently written. I have been a researcher at the University of Hawaii for more than 40 years and have conducted, and continue to conduct, research that is vital to Hawaii's future – both on Hawaii's renewable energy as well as on its groundwater resources. I have been assisting (pro bono) the Hawaii Department of Health since 2015 in their response to the fuel releases from the Navy's Red Hill fuel storage facility; most recently, I received a \$4.6M grant from the Office of Naval Research to conduct independent investigations of the hydrological conditions around Red Hill to assist the DOH in overseeing the defueling operations of that facility. This is in addition to other awarded grants from the USGS Volcano Hazards Program (~\$900K annually) and the Department of Energy (~\$1.25M, shared with another colleague). My research not only brings substantial funding to the University to support students and University facilities, it also provides valuable information to our regulatory agencies (DOH, DLNR/CWRM) as well as civil officials (HI-EMA).

Throughout my career, the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii has provided essential support services for the management and execution of my research projects; without those services, that research would not have been possible. The changes in the operations of the Research Corporation required by SB1511 would **severely** and **adversely** impact my ability to conduct the research that I pursue. Had I been faced with many of the restrictions imposed by SB1511 when I first began my career forty years ago, I would have very quickly made the decision that I could no longer be competitive for research funding nor successful in my research work, and would have left the University of Hawaii for another institution that was able to provide a more supportive research environment. If this bill is passed as written, I believe that many of the University's current young researchers will be forced to make a similar decision and both the University and Hawaii will be the poorer for that loss.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony. The opinions expressed above are mine alone and do not reflect an official position of the University of Hawaii.

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:25:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have worked with RCUH in relation to research and training projects for UH for the last 28 years and know without a doubt RCUH's efficient systems and operations, that are designed to comply with federal requirements, are necessary to meet grants and contracts funding goals and objectives which have ultimately allowed UH to successfully compete nationally and internationally for highly competitive grant and contract funding, and have played a key role in launching UH's success in these areas to the global stage. It is not clear what this bill intends to fix however as a user of RCUH services, there does not appear to be anything awry with RCUH's support to UH's extramural funding enterprise. I am concerned the passage of this bill will harm UH's ability to compete for and deliver on funding objectives which will diminish the amount of federal dollars UH brings to Hawaii, now at record-breaking amounts and growing. UH is simply not staffed to fill the procurement and hiring needs RCUH is already structured to handle and UH systems have not been designed to comply with federal requirements and regulations like RCUH systems have. It seems it would be more prudent and less harmful to evaluate for improvements that can be made between UH and RCUH if there are concerns, rather than to severely reduce RCUH operations which would impact UH's extramural funding enterprise, as this bill will do if passed.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Cheryl Reeser

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:41:12 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William W. Rems III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to oppose **SB1511** as it will severely limit options for staffing temporary positions for grant funded projects within the University of Hawaii System. RCUH provides flexibility to hire top talent to fill critical short term employment needs for the University, and this bill jeopardizes an essential tool for grant-funded projects.

Also, this bill seems like a clear attempt by powerful state unions (i.e. HGEA) to gain control of temporary hiring within the UH system, and will make UH less competitive moving forward in acquiring top talent.

Thank you!

Trip Rems

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:08:47 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Wright	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the 32nd Hawai'i State Legislature:

My name is Robert Wright, and I am writing in opposition to [SB 1511](#), relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.

The purpose of RCUH is to help the University execute its research grants and contracts. These grants are short on the time-scale of State of Hawai'i hiring and procurement, being nearly always less than three years in duration, and sometimes less than one year. On these short-fuse projects we need to hire staff who are almost invariably highly specialized, at short notice, and on contracts which do not exceed the length of the approved federal funding. This requires a level of flexibility.

SB1151 indicates that, if enacted, hiring research staff may require the approval of not only at least one union, but also the actual Governor. The inevitable delays associated with this (hopefully this would be rather low on the Governor's 'to-do' list) would mean we would not be able to do the work the federal government has funded us to do, in the time-frame allowed. Reducing our flexibility will harm our research enterprise, which brings a few hundred million dollars per year into the state economy. It is unclear why we would want to do that.

SB1511 appears to be a bill in search of a problem, rather than a bill to enhance the State of Hawai'i's competitiveness in obtaining and executing (and then re-obtaining) federal research awards.

Respectfully, I oppose SB 1511.

Robert Wright

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:52:23 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teya Penniman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose SB 1511. RCUH has provided a successful framework for research-based conservation work throughout the Hawaiian Islands for nearly 50 years. Attached to the University of Hawaii, RCUH provides essential and effective financial management and human resources services to UH and other public agencies.

In addition to research and training projects funded by extramural contracts and grants, RCUH has supported projects funded by local, state, and federal funds. The current structure facilitates significant leveraging of different funds. These projects protect nearshore and pelagic marine environments and terrestrial ecosystems, document the effects of climate change, help mentor new farmers, and work with students and teachers in elementary schools and graduate programs. Examples of specific projects that could be affected by this bill include the island-based Watershed Partnerships, Invasive Species Committees, Forest Bird Recovery and Seabird Recovery Projects, sea urchin hatcheries, and propagation of endangered plants and snails. All these projects are research-based, with strong connections to the University of Hawaii. But the bill, as written, could have the unintended consequence of shutting down projects that also include management actions. These projects and funders could not quickly shift to some other, as yet undeveloped framework. The projects provide pathways to new careers and pump millions of dollars annually into the local economy. As drafted, this bill would likely result in the loss of thousands of jobs for local, hardworking residents, whose lives would be upended. The impact to decades of work spent protecting native places and our quality of life would be immeasurable.

A major change like this should not be taken without carefully thinking through the unintended consequences that will surely follow. Please do not move this bill forward.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Teya M. Penniman

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:53:26 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Yuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1511 Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii. This bill has a detrimental impact on the functions and mission of the RCUH and the University of Hawaii, causing great harm to Hawaii and its economy. I am a UH faculty with extramural-funded projects under the RCUH, but I am providing my testimony as a concerned citizen.

If passed, this bill requires hiring through the RCUH for a state project or a program involving a state employee to be consulted with employee unions and obtain the governor's approval. The bill does not provide any clear definition or justification for the jobs under this particular review. The review process and criteria are unclear, likely resulting in a lengthy process that could go on for months or years. No evidence shows that the existing RCUH procedures for approving new jobs have caused supplanting of civil service employees.

The purpose of the RCUH is to support extramural-funded projects by hiring project staff and procuring goods and services. Most extramural grants are awarded a year at a time, so hiring has to be fast. As a Principal Investigator, I can attest that RCUH's effective and efficient hiring procedures are critical to the success of my projects and other extramural grant awards for the University.

I urge you to vote against SB1511. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 3:00:41 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke V Mahnken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's call it what it is- SB1511 will attempt to cripple and upend a system that is critically important for the conservation of native ecosystems, quality of life for residents, and protection of agriculture. Many livelihoods depend on the continued function of RCUH. As written, this bill could send RCUH to a grinding halt. Is that what the sponsors intend? What would necessitate such action? SB1511 is unjust and damaging to our community.

LATE

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 4:27:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Dube	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed committee members,

I am writing in opposition to this proposed piece of legislation. As I understand it, SB1511 would significantly hamper many conservation organizations ability to fulfill the obligations established by their funders and would substantially hamper the important conservation and invasive species management efforts crucial for protecting the state from threats to the environment.

As a conservation professional with years of experience in managing an invasive species program through RCUH, the proposed piece of legislation would add more layers of approval to a process that already takes so long that the current process itself can hamper the ability to conduct timely management action for invasive species control. Many of these species are considered the worst invaders globally and have the ability to harm the economy, ecology, human health, and the daily quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Increasing the timeline and individuals that are required to approve actions will further impede statewide efforts to mitigate threats posed by invasive species.

Furthermore, this proposed legislation appears to place restrictions on the dissemination of important information crucial to outreach and the education of the public on these threats posed by invasive species. Without the ability to provide information to the public in a timely manner, many RCUH based conservation entities that fill gaps for statewide efforts will not be able to function efficiently, if at all. Effective outreach efforts make all the difference for many conservation agencies that fall under the RCUH umbrella and limiting their ability to conduct outreach will cause unnecessary harm to our environment and our community.

Many agencies depend on contracted services to fulfill strategies that are vital to protecting the State's biosecurity. For example, helicopter surveillance in the upper forest where deleterious species can infiltrate the few pockets of remaining native forest that cannot be accessed safely by foot. Limiting the ability for RCUH conservation agencies to secure these types of services will hinder the important watershed-saving efforts that are on-going and will need to continue in perpetuity to protect our islands from environmental threats.

While some RCUH conservation programs implement management actions, all are based in research and have some research components that are necessary to management action. It is important to understand that many of these RCUH conservation agencies are filling gaps in the

statewide coordinated efforts to protect and sustain our vital natural resources. Gaps that the State has been unable to fill without many of these RCUH conservation programs. If limitations are placed on the management side of these programs, the State's conservation efforts will be reduced substantially. The State, the watersheds, and the people of Hawaii will suffer if this proposed legislation puts in place procedures that further restrict the ability to protect these important natural resources.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, consideration, and hard work. As a citizen that values highly our State's efforts to combat the detrimental effects of climate change and invasive species, I really appreciate all that you do to help us fight the threats of invasive species.

LATE

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 5:08:30 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Hummon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will damage the University of Hawaii's and RCUH's ability to support research by limiting the mandate to "research, training, and publication". By removing most of section 3, which includes activities that are broader in scope and support the research mission, a great deal of what is necessary to build a research community and carry out research, is lost.

"Research" requires training. It also requires maintenance of labs, computers, and equipment, which is not "research" but is in the support of research. For the one person writing the paper, there are often many others who are keeping the dishes clean, the animals fed, the software updated, and who are helping with the enterprise of the research. The definition of a "research worker" is unclear and could be interpreted in a very narrow way, resulting in projects failing due to lack of personnel to support them. The narrow scope of "research, training, and publication", without the additional nuances of encouraging, aiding, assisting, developing, in research as well as investigations and study, will limit faculty to the point of failure, and will result in loss of reputation for the University and loss of financial contributions coming from these extramural grants.

I urge the State Senate to reject this bill.

LATE

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:58:25 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Christopher P. Jury	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it would devastate the capacity of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) to accomplish its fundamental mission. This bill would not only severely impact research by the university, but would have a chilling effect on the economy of the entire state. Therefore, I strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1511

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:55:47 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Kajiwara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For full disclosure, I am currently an employee of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii and am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I oppose Senate Bill 1511 because it complicates and delays the hiring process for RCUH positions. SB 1511 constricts the hiring of employees for RCUH funded projects to civil service employees or requires the governor's approval for an exemption. Research projects are funded for a determinate period of time and some may be as short as 3 months. A project could lose valuable research time if a principal investigator must wait for the completion of the civil service review process. Moreover the COVID pandemic has reduced the number of individuals seeking active employment in the Hawaii job market. Restricting the recruitment of RCUH positions to civil service workers will increase the difficulty of finding qualified individuals to fill open positions.