



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by
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HB 2194 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of HB 2194.

This bill, and other similar measures introduced this session, attempt to address the negative consequences of applying the current "one size fits all" State Ethics Code to the multitude of situations that arise during the course of operating the state government or UH.

In particular, UH is concerned that a strict and narrow application of the State Ethics Code would prohibit or severely hamper university activities designed to "transfer" new technology and ideas created from research at UH laboratories and faculty offices to the larger society.

The University of Hawai'i believes that technology transfer should be permitted under the State Ethics Code where such activities are likely to create specific benefits to the state or the public -- notwithstanding the simultaneous creation of commercial benefit or individual personal benefit.

The University of Hawai'i understands this is complex issue and appreciates the legislature's interest and efforts to resolve this problem as proposed in this measure, and for considering other possible alternatives, such as creation of "safe harbors."

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.