



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary
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by
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SB 387 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 387 SD2 HD1, which establishes a task force to review and make recommendations on the University of Hawaii's executive policy on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure and believes that a task force would be a fair and useful mechanism to garner insight and a better understanding of the issues from task force members as well as a good tool for the review of the current policy. We believe, however, that this measure is duplicative of HCR 100, which requests such a task force. The University would prefer HCR 100 because it would provide greater flexibility to the task force in conducting business.

It should be noted that the University updated its sexual harassment/sexual violence policy to be both fair and balanced in its form and application, with regards to all stakeholders that have an interest in an affirmative consent policy. These guidelines are specifically intended to address the requirements of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It was carefully crafted, involving months of research and systemwide committee work, to achieve a standard that supports the University's broad mission of promoting safe, healthy campus environments, while at the same time addressing the complex and interrelated requirements of state and federal sex discrimination and sexual violence laws and regulations that cover students, employees, and third parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 387 SD2 HD1.