



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented to the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

by  
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HB 2256 HD2 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this measure.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the need to diversify Hawai'i's economy through the development of additional economic sectors based on research and innovation. As Hawai'i's only public research university and the largest research enterprise in the state, UH plays a vital role in Hawai'i's economic recovery and diversification.

In 2017, the Legislature supported UH's efforts to promote the commercialization of inventions and discoveries generated by its faculty, students and alumni by giving UH the responsibility to ensure that technology transfer activities it sponsors comport with ethic principles embodied in the State Ethics Code. Pursuant to Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, University of Hawai'i sponsored technology transfer activities would be exempt from specific sections of the State Ethics Code so long as these technology transfer activities were subject to ethic policies and a compliance program established by UH that were specifically adapted to unique features of university-generated innovations. However, the transfer of compliance responsibility to UH by Act 38 sunsets on June 30, 2022.

The University of Hawai'i has developed draft policies and protocols and is consulting with the various stakeholder groups in the UH community, including its faculty. To continue the efforts to develop the policies, internal guidance, forms and procedural protocols to fully implement a robust compliance program, the University of Hawai'i supports the three-year extension of the sunset provision of Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, to June 30, 2025, as proposed in the HB 2256 HD2.

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