



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented to the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

by  
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**HB 913 HD2 – RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII  
AUTHORITY**

Chairs DeCoite and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Wakai and Favella, and Members of the  
Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on HB  
913 HD2 that seeks to establish a research advisory council (RAC) at the Natural  
Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority (NELHA), that would include a member of UH's  
institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC).

Other than projects relating to aquaculture of fish and the Ke Kai Ola hospital for  
juvenile monk seals, the programs working with animals at NELHA focus on  
invertebrate species. Current regulations and guidance documents used by the UH  
IACUC do not pertain to invertebrates, as there is no federal requirement for IACUCs to  
oversee work with invertebrates. Any mandate put on work with invertebrates conducted  
by private entities at NELHA would be specific to the State of Hawai'i only.

Additionally, federal requirements state that IACUCs must be composed of at least five  
members of different backgrounds and expertise, as well as representation from the  
community, in order to deliberate and provide quality reviews on proposals.

A more feasible alternative might be to consider appointing someone with an expertise  
in invertebrates to sit on the NELHA RAC in lieu of a UH IACUC member.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.