



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Friday, February 2, 2024 at 2:05 p.m.

by

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HB 2502 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of HB 2502.

In 2017, the Legislature backed 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 the technology transfer activities it sponsors comport with principles embodied in the State Ethics Code via Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017. This much-needed authority granted to UH, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, sunsets on June 30, 2024.

With a regent's policy, an executive policy, and administrative procedures in place to assure compliance, technology transfer activities are progressing in the right direction as UH seeks to establish itself as a driver of economic health and workforce diversification in the state--by aggressively encouraging, identifying and transforming the inventions and discoveries generated by its researchers into commercially viable products and businesses. To continue this positive momentum, UH respectfully request that the sunset provision of Act 8, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, be repealed.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure.