



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 Finance
Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

by

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HB 2503 HD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of HB 2503 HD1 that makes its Innovation and Commercialization Initiative program permanent through the removal of the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2017, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i (SSLH) 2021, set for June 30, 2024.

This law provides UH with the express statutory authority to sponsor and directly participate in the transformation of innovations created by its researchers into viable commercial enterprises. As the state's only public system of higher education, UH plays a critical role in helping to diversify the economy by promoting research, discovery and commercial innovation. To remain competitive, it is imperative for UH to have a strong and comprehensive university level research program with the capacity to support commercial innovation.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 39, SLH 2017, as amended by Act 8, SSLH 2021, be repealed permanently through the passage of HB 2503 HD1.

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