



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
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by
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SB 3059 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this bill that would remove the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, and thereby allow UH to sustain its Innovation and Commercialization Program by providing it with the express statutory authority to sponsor and directly participate in the transformation of innovations created by UH researchers into viable commercial enterprises.

Commercial innovation is inherently risky and takes time to develop. The path leading from an idea, through its development and refinement, through protection of intellectual property, through formally organizing a corporate structure and hiring managers and staff, through locating a facility to physically incubate the venture, through obtaining external financing, and ultimately leading to a successful and sustainable commercial operation is fraught with uncertainty. Act 39 recognizes that UH is uniquely positioned to assist a home-grown fledgling venture navigate these uncertainties.

Universities across the country increasingly recognize that they can play an active role to support the transformation of inventions and discoveries generated on their campuses and to transfer these technologies to the commercial realm. The University of Hawai'i needs to match its peers to remain competitive to attract sponsored research, enterprising faculty and talented students.

To sustain and grow its Innovation and Commercialization Program, the University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.