



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented to the  
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

by  
Vassilis L. Syrmos  
Vice President, Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 1218 SD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of SB 1218 SD1.

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. 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 specifically adapted to the unique features of university-generated innovations. Unfortunately, this much-needed authority granted to UH under Act 38 sunsets on June 30, 2022.

The University of Hawai'i has issued a Regents Policy, an Executive Policy, and has drafted administrative procedures to require and assure compliance with an "Act 38" management plan. This management plan is designed to identify, address, and mitigate conflicts of interest that arise during technology transfer activities involving UH faculty. To date, UH has successfully implemented the Act 38 policies and procedures for three faculty startups.

As the University of Hawai'i has established and is implementing the necessary policies and procedures that ethically govern its technology transfer activities, <https://www.hawaii.edu/research/ethics/>, UH respectfully request that the sunset provision of Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, be extended for three years as amended in SB 1218 SD1.

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