



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented to the  
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means  
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by

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### SB 1219 SD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports SB 1219 SD1 that would extend the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, for three years. This law, currently codified in sections 1951 through 1959 of HRS Chapter 304A, 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. Unless the sunset date is extended, the authority is extinguished on June 30, 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated that Hawai'i's economy is heavily dependent on only a few sectors. As the state's only public system of higher education, UH plays a critical role in helping to diversify the state's 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.

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