



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented to the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
and  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.  
by  
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### SB 1421 – RELATING TO DUAL USE TECHNOLOGY

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Misalucha, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this bill that creates a task force with UH and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to explore how dual-use technology can be used to promote economic recovery and help diversify the state's economy -- and makes an appropriation.

As our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates, the state's economy is heavily dependent on a few sectors. As Hawai'i'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. However, UH cannot do this alone without the commitment of partners like the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). Already in play are a number of initiatives with HTDC to bring UH technology to market and to strengthen the pipeline of new startups securing federal SBIR funding. The Hawai'i Tech Bridge Program, a new partnership between UH, HTDC and the Naval Information Warfare Center, is expected to create new inroads for Hawai'i technology companies to serve as solution providers for the U.S. Navy – many of which would certainly include dual-use technologies.

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