



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
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By

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SCR 201 SD1 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS THE UNIVERSITY'S: (1) TENURE SYSTEM FOR RESEARCHERS AND OTHER NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY; AND (2) COMPENSATION STRUCTURE OF FACULTY ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY EXTRAMURAL FUNDING AND GRANTS; IN COMPARISON TO PEER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, AND PROPOSE THE BEST PRACTICES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 201, Senate Draft 1.

As the resolution notes, tenure is critical for recruitment, advancing knowledge, and for academic freedom. The University of Hawai'i welcomes the opportunity to further investigate its policies and procedures regarding tenure in relation to its peers and looks forward to working with the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly to address the points found in the resolution.

We respectfully request that "or designee" be added to the task force members who do not have that option (page 5), such as for the Board of Regent's Chair, the President, and the Vice President for Research and Innovation to make those members consistent with the rest of the task force members. While participation of these individuals is important, having the option for a designee allows for the important work of the task force to proceed without being hindered by the schedules of some of the members.