



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
and  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.  
By  
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### SB 2077 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

Chairs Wakai and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2077 relating to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. This bill proposes modifications to HRS 201B, how the Hawai'i Tourism Authority functions.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) generally supports the intent of SB2077, except for a specific revision proposed to §201B-13: Assistance by state and county agencies that we must respectfully oppose.

The proposed revision to §201B-13 significantly alters how other state agencies, including UH, render services to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. The proposed new language changes “may” to “shall” and does not provide a framework for understanding when the Tourism Authority can request such services or the scope of compensation for such services. We cannot support mandating the provision of such services without additional context for what types of services or under what conditions.

The UH requests that the original language of “may” render services remain and that there be additional language to more narrowly define the scope of services that “shall” be provided. We welcome the opportunity to support tourism within a clearly understood framework with appropriate resources for doing so.