



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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by

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SB 2304 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the Hawai'i State Legislature's intent to help provide clarity to the purpose of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) through SB 2304 but opposes this measure.

We believe that narrowing UH's use of RCUH to only research and training of research personnel in Section 2 of the bill will unintentionally, but severely reduce UH's effectiveness and impact its missions of research, instruction, and public service. Many of the programs that will be impacted are not for regular tuition and fee instruction at UH, but are programs directed to improving STEM education in Hawai'i, increasing first time college students among underrepresented populations, assisting underrepresented groups in navigating college, and so on.

In addition to research, about 40-45 percent of UH's annual extramural awards are for non-research projects such as training grants and student development and support grants, to name a few. Many of these projects are federally funded and are equally deserving of effective, efficient and prompt services so that UH can meet the terms and conditions of the grants. RCUH is a key resource in UH administering these non-research grants and contracts and is why historically HRS 304A-112 referred to sponsored research and training.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.