



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
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by

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SB 3191 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of SB 3191 SD1 HD1 that permanently authorizes UH to continue to regulate conflicts of interest and other ethical issues for its sponsored technology transfer activities.

In 2017, the Legislature backed UH's efforts to promote the commercialization of inventions and discoveries generated by its faculty, students and alumni by giving UH the responsibility to ensure that the technology transfer activities it sponsors comport with principles embodied in the State Ethics Code via Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017. This much-needed authority granted to UH, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i (SSLH) 2021, sunsets on June 30, 2024.

By aggressively encouraging, identifying and transforming the inventions and discoveries generated by its researchers into commercially viable products and businesses, UH is seeking to establish itself as a driver of economic health and workforce diversification in the state. With a regent's policy, an executive policy, and administrative procedures in place to assure compliance, technology transfer activities are progressing. To sustain this positive forward momentum, UH respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 8, SSLH 2021, be repealed through the passage of SB 3191 SD1 HD1.

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