



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 Higher Education & Technology
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by

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

SB 3192 SD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in strong support of SB 3192 SD1 that makes its Innovation and Commercialization Initiative program permanent through the removal of the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2017, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i (SSLH) 2021, set for June 30, 2024.

The state's experience with the recent pandemic clearly demonstrated that it remains heavily dependent on a few economic sectors.

As the state'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. This measure provides UH with the express statutory authority to sponsor and directly participate in the transformation of innovations created by its researchers into viable commercial enterprises.

A strong and comprehensive university level research program with the capacity to support commercial innovation will also help UH to remain competitive amongst its peer institutions.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 39, SLH 2017, as amended by Act 8, SSLH 2021, be repealed permanently through the passage of SB 3192 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.