



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 3:05 p.m.
by
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SB 1204 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1204 which, among other things, reestablishes the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i as an organized research unit within the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa cannot support this bill in its present form. We recognize the importance of ensuring strong collaboration across the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i, as well as the need to continue to seek operational efficiencies on the Kaka'ako campus. However, we believe that it is essential that the University's academic units retain the authority to develop and implement academic and research programs - and the associated organizational structures - to be responsive to the needs of the people of Hawai'i.

President Hensel has tasked me with creating a process and timetable for the development of a comprehensive plan for the optimization of the Kaka'ako campus structure and activities, which may include even closer integration of the Cancer Research Center and JABSOM.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.