



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Finance
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by
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HB 1065 HD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 1065 HD1 that would remove the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017. This law, currently codified in sections 1951 through 1959 of HRS Chapter 304A, 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. Unless the sunset date is repealed, the authority is extinguished on June 30, 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated that Hawai'i's economy is heavily dependent on only a few sectors. As the state's only public system of higher education, UH plays a critical role in helping to diversify the state's economy by promoting research, discovery and commercial innovation. To remain competitive, it is imperative for UH to have a strong and comprehensive university level research program with the capacity to support commercial innovation.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 39, SLH 2017, be repealed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.