

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

189

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 10, 2017

RE: H.B. No. 847

H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 847 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
RESEARCH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide the University of
Hawaii with express statutory authority to create, promote, and
participate in new economic enterprises and expand workforce
opportunities through the commercialization of inventions and
discoveries generated by or at the University.

The University of Hawaii, High Technology Development
Corporation, The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Sultan Ventures,
Hawaii Business Roundtable Incorporated, XLR8UH, and Hawaii
Venture Capital Association supported this bill. A concerned
individual opposed this measure. The Department of Budget and
Finance, Hawaii State Ethics Commission, State Procurement Office,
The Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, and Society of
Professional Journalists Hawaii Chapter submitted comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for
consistency, clarity, and style.

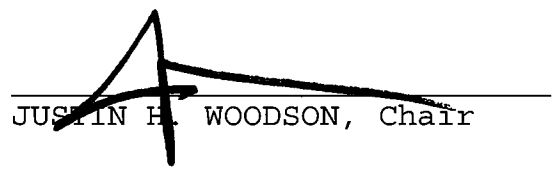
HB847 HD1 HSCR HED HMS 2017-1910



A provision in this measure requires state laws, including the Ethics Code, to be construed in light of the public benefits created and the state interests advanced by the University's research activities. The Hawaii State Ethics Commission's (Commission) testimony suggested that this provision is unnecessary because when applying the Ethics Code, the Commission always considers the State's purpose. While respecting the position of the current Commission, your Committee is concerned that the application of the Ethics Code by a future Commission may differ from current Commission practices. Accordingly, your Committee has decided to retain the provision.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 847, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 847, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



