



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business  
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by

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HB 166 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this measure.

The purpose of this bill is to provide clear statutory authority to UH to frame and support its various activities to develop and commercialize the intellectual property created by UH faculty, staff or alumni. This commercialization, in turn, will contribute to a dynamic and more diverse workforce in the state and promote economic health.

The bill is patterned after Chapter 211F in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes that established the Hawai'i Strategic Development Corporation. The primary focus of this bill, however, will be on intellectual property developed by persons with ties to UH, such as current faculty or former students.

The University of Hawai'i will benefit from this measure by being able to undertake commercialization activity with greater legal certainty. Third parties will be more willing to engage with UH on joint ventures or public-private collaborations and risk their capital if the legal parameters were clear.

The University of Hawai'i's brand will also be enhanced. Currently, UH lags its peer institutions in having the support infrastructure to encourage and nurture technology transfer. To keep UH competitive with its mainland peers in the competition for external commercial research sponsorship and in the completion for hiring entrepreneurial faculty or staff, it needs to develop a commercialization capacity. Clear statutory authority is one needed component for this capacity.

The University of Hawai'i requests your support and advancement of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.