



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
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by

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### HB 425 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committee:

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

One of the University of Hawai'i's (UH) strategic directions is to grow the portfolio of sponsored research done at the University and to promote innovation and workforce diversification in the state's economy.

One critical phase of innovation is the ability to commercialize research ideas generated on campus. The phase is often known as "technology transfer" and is designed to strengthen economies by getting new ideas, inventions and processes developed in universities to the private sector as quickly as possible. Technology transfer occurs throughout the nation at other universities and it is vital for UH to be able to support its faculty and student researchers in these activities.

The purpose of this bill is to adapt the application of the Hawai'i State Ethics Code to reflect current day realities of technology transfer activities and UH's unique mission as the state's largest research enterprise. Currently, certain requirements of the State Ethics Code, if too stringently applied -- will inhibit the efficient and effective commercialization of research generated at UH.

The University of Hawai'i strongly prefers that state government support for UH technology transfer activities be more forthright, transparent and more permanently set forth in appropriate legislation. This measure provides clear guidance to UH, to its faculty and research staff, and to potential private partners by exempting technology transfer activities from selected provisions of the State Ethics Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.