



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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Tourism and Technology
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by
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HB 598 HD2 – RELATING TO CYBERSECURITY

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this measure that proposes the development of a Hawai'i "cyber-ecosystem" to coordinate and support cyber activities related to readiness and resilience, education and workforce development, economic development and innovation.

Cyber threats are among the gravest national security dangers to the U.S. – as citizens and those in the private sector and government are increasingly confronted by identity theft, cyber-enabled economic espionage, politically motivated cyberattacks and other malicious activity. It is also one of the most strategic threats that the federal, state and private sectors face in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i is well-engaged in numerous cybersecurity research, education and workforce development initiatives, including the establishment of NSA designated Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense & Research at UH Mānoa, Honolulu Community College and at UH West O'ahu; conducting annual joint cybersecurity exercises involving the Hawai'i National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard and a number of business, industry and government organizations; and annually hosting the GenCyber Camps that encourage STEM pathways in cybersecurity to middle and high school students.

The University of Hawai'i stands by its previous testimony to contribute funding for activities related to the development of a Hawai'i cyber ecosystem comprising of private companies, nonprofit organizations, government and individuals involved in this battle.

A statewide collaboration in Hawai'i's cyber ecosystem can lead to an expanding innovation economy and innovative approaches to increase Hawai'i's preparedness, readiness and resilience to cyber threats. Concurrently, it can lead to the development of a comprehensive cybersecurity education curriculum that spans the state's middle, intermediate and high schools, and continues into higher education and the workforce to address the unmet need for trained cybersecurity personnel in Hawai'i and abroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.