



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
and  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy  
March 21, 2017 at 2:10 p.m.  
By  
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### HB 848 HD2 – RELATING TO ENERGY MODERNIZATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Chairs Kahele and Inouye, Vice Chairs Kidani and Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 848 HD2 – Relating to Energy Modernization at the University of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i System has a legislative mandate (Act 99, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015) to achieve net-zero energy by 2035. While the University supports this visionary goal, the University hopes to maximize the use of alternative energy sources to ensure this unfunded mandate does not come at the expense of our students, either directly or indirectly.

To this end, the University of Hawai'i – West Oahu (UHWO) has the opportunity to use its property, mauka of the H-1 freeway, to develop a photovoltaic farm that, via this bill, could connect to and meet the energy demands of the main UHWO campus. UHWO's enrollment continues to increase each year and, with the expansion of academic programs and related facilities, the energy demand and associated utility costs will also increase.

This bill would provide a vehicle to cost effectively develop and utilize this proposed alternate energy source. The power produced would not only service the planned 300-acre campus but could also serve the 168 acres of non-campus lands targeted for development through a private/public partnership agreement. The non-campus lands are planned for development in close coordination and collaboration with UHWO such that it will complement and enhance the college town experience and provide long-term financial benefits for the University.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.