



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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HB 909 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

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

The University of Hawai'i and local business community have partnered on the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, a bold and proactive effort to help diversify the state's economy by building a thriving innovation, research, education and training enterprise -- to be driven by the growth of new industries in Hawai'i and fueled by UH's plans to aggressively commercialize its research over the next decade.

A key to the success of this initiative is the establishment of the Center of Commercialization, which will serve as a virtual umbrella that will encompass grant development/commercialization/innovation related programs to increase efficiencies, effectiveness and success necessary for the establishment of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at UH. The center will encompass the Strategic Grants Development Office, Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development and the XLR8UH proof of concept center/venture accelerator – to help “quarterback” the three interwoven entities in assisting new strategic hires and current faculty with extramural funding, entrepreneurship and commercialization.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the Legislature's amendment of this measure in HD1 to immediately establish the Center for Commercialization, in lieu of a lengthy study. To maximize the impact of the Center for Commercialization, UH urges the Legislature to concurrently allow passage of measures like HB 166, HB 1156 and HB 847 that will enable UH to start the programs initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.