



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Finance
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by

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HB 909 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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.

Under the “quarterbacking” of the Center of Commercialization, the Strategic Grants Development office will provide system-wide strategic direction and coordination to increase grant funding in national science and technology funding priority areas. These priority areas will be further reinforced by faculty encouraged by a reinvented Office of Technology and Economic Development to file invention disclosures and to seek commercialization opportunities through the XLR8UH accelerator.

To help maximize the impact of the Center for Commercialization, UH urges the Legislature to concurrently allow passage of measures on commercialization and technology transfer that will enable UH to start the program initiatives necessary for successful research commercialization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.