



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on
Higher Education
and
Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
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HB 2172 HD2 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

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

The University of the Hawai'i (UH) is in support of HB 2172 HD2, Relating to University of Hawai'i Public-Private Partnerships.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the UH to allow the University to enter into public-private partnerships (P3) and establishes an Office of Strategic Partnerships and Development to evaluate and manage P3 that would benefit UH. The original draft of the bill also appropriated \$500,000 from the State general fund for four FTE positions to staff the Office.

The goal of P3 is to capitalize on the strengths and assets of each sector (public and private) to help deliver a project or service more efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the general public. P3 are increasingly found in the higher education sector, and examples include campus redevelopment and expansion, student housing development, physical plant infrastructure, and facility maintenance.

The Office of Strategic Planning and Development will:

- a) help ensure that P3 opportunities are properly analyzed, evaluated, coordinate, overseen, and managed;
- b) allow UH to become a recognized educational and research resource on P3 to provide opportunities for faculty and students to learn and participate in management and oversight; and
- c) foster innovation and increase revenue generating opportunities together with exploring ways to maximize efficiency and reduce costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.