UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By
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HB 2560 HD2 – RELATING TO A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2560 HD2 – Relating to a sustainable economic development strategy. The University of Hawai'i ("University") supports the initiatives set forth in this measure to develop a sustainable economic development strategy for the state, but has concerns about requiring the University to provide data mining services for the state sustainability coordinator without providing appropriate funding and resources.

More specifically, the University seeks clarification on the definition and scope of data mining services as used in this measure. It is unclear whether such services are available within the organization, and whether the level of effort involved can be managed within existing resources. While the University is agreeable to participating in data analysis, it cannot commit to meeting these requirements without appropriate funding and resources.

Additionally, past experience from other states who have adopted a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), as an alternative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), suggests that deciding on the final indicators and data with which to track them requires a consultative process across multiple agencies who might also be data holders. It is during that process that the most appropriate (and routinely available) data are identified, and state agencies then commit to report on the GPI aggregators. Again, the University is agreeable to participating in this process, but cannot commit to serving a primary or principle role in this process without appropriate funding and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in general support of HB 2560 HD2, but with the above stated reservations.