



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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SB 2832 SD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2832 SD1. The University of Hawai'i ("University") supports this measure which allows funds appropriated by the Legislature to be deposited into the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund ("GSF") and clarifies the authority to expend funds and the scope of the projects that can be funded. This bill will facilitate a sustainable means of financing energy efficient and other sustainability projects at the University that will ultimately improve energy performance, reduce operating costs, and modernize our facilities.

Green Revolving Funds (GRFs) are a best practice used by many leading colleges and universities dedicated to addressing sustainable facilities, operations, and behaviors. These funds are typically managed by the university to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability, and energy conservation projects which reduce energy use, and repay the GRFs within a specified time period through operational cost savings realized by the energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability, and energy conservation projects.

In 2017, the Legislature passed Act 186, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, which added to chapter 304A, HRS, a new section later codified as section 304A-2181, that created the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund to collect and expend moneys generated by energy savings from energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability projects on additional energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability projects. This mechanism helps move the University closer to achieving its net-zero energy mandate (Act 99, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015).

This measure enables the University to more efficiently administer and manage the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund by:

- (1) Expressly permitting the deposit of legislatively appropriated funds into the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund.

- (2) Expressly authorizing the University's chief financial officer to collect moneys for and expend and transfer moneys from the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund.
- (3) Clarifying that the scope of the projects eligible for funding from the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund includes energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy, and sustainability projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2832 SD1.