UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
by
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HB 3360, HD 1 Relating to Science and Technology

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports the intent of this bill which would establish a task force to develop the Hawaii State Science and Technology Plan. As the largest science and technology organization in the State of Hawaii, the University has a vested interest in the task force and its resulting State Science and Technology Plan. Many of our Federal funding agencies are requiring evidence that their awards--especially in infrastructure and large, center-like awards--are not only meeting the needs of the nation, but also those of the state, as defined in an overarching science and technology plan. We ask this committee to consider making the University of Hawaii System the administrative home for this task force, provided that this does not adversely affect budget priorities in the Board of Regents' FY 2009 Supplemental Budget. The University is in the unique position of bringing all stakeholders to the table to address this important work.

The development of a science and technology plan must have participation by all affected stakeholders if it is to be successfully implemented. We ask that this committee consider broadening the proposed task force membership to include representation from the industry itself; specifically, Hawaii science and technology companies. This representation will be especially helpful in discussions regarding technology infrastructure investment and workforce development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.