SCR 183
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ROLE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE STATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Business & Economic Development,
Committee on Labor, and
Committee on Higher Education

April 4, 2005

By

Sam Callejo
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai‘i System
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Chairs Espero, Kanno and Hee and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii supports the establishment of a task force on economic
development and the role of the University of Hawaii in the economic future of
the State of Hawaii. In 1998, in response to an economic revitalization task force
put together by the Governor, Senate President and the Speaker of the House
the Legislature passed Act 115 granting the University of Hawaii greater flexibility
and autonomy. The task force’s conclusion, which the legislature adopted, was
that autonomy for the university would materially enhance the university’s
performance of its constitutional responsibilities and thereby contribute
significantly to the economic revitalization of the State of Hawaii.

With the help of the Legislature the University of Hawaii has expanded its role as
an economic driver of the state. As a generator of research, the university has
more than doubled its research capacity to over $300 million in research and
training grants a year. These grants create high quality jobs and economic
diversification.

As an educational institution, the training provided by the university supplies the
workforce that drives the modernization and development of many sectors of our
economy. The availability of a qualified workforce is an important requirement of
the high technology industry. A talented workforce has been a magnet for the
development of industries around universities in many other states.

We do suggest that the resolution be amended to indicate a lead agency for the
convening of such a task force and an indication of the members and
appointment process which will constitute this task force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 183.