



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
April 6, 2009 at 1:20 pm
by
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SCR 122/SR 80 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO CONSIDER
THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF THE VICE
CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chairs Tokuda and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Baker and Members of the
Committees:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Concurrent Resolution 122 and Senate Resolution 80 that urge the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) to consider the feasibility of establishing an office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED) at UH Hilo.

We support these resolutions with the understanding that they will help UH Hilo achieve our vision for establishing the VC-RED Office. Through a newly created VC-RED office, UH Hilo will be much better positioned to support the development and implementation of high impact research and undergraduate degree program initiatives that address State priorities, as well as providing essential research experiences for UH Hilo STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students to become a highly qualified and globally competitive S&T workforce.

Establishment of a fully functional VC-RED Office will significantly increase cost-effective utilization of grant indirect/overhead funds, serve as a focal point for all STEM education/training experiences and mentoring that are integrated with UH Hilo research projects, will support the growing research programs across departments at UH Hilo, be responsible for all budgeting/fiscal aspects of research grants, and allow both faculty and students to focus their efforts more directly on their research, education and training. VC-RED will also serve as a UH Hilo focal point for leading UHH efforts in S&T (science and technology) oriented economic development, encourage interdisciplinary activities and foster programs that promote S&T economic progress of the state. It will also provide the long-term strategic vision and oversight required for the expanding UHH research programs, and link these more directly to stimulation of STEM related economic development in Hawai'i.

Establishing a UH Hilo VC-RED Office will significantly advance our efforts in filling the niche for

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applied research that seeks to strongly link to both the undergraduate STEM education experience and S&T economic stimulation for Hawaii. Such a research enterprise will complement and strengthen the broader UH System as it addresses the critical needs of our State. UH Hilo will work toward establishing such an office as quickly as possible, and we thank you for your support in this effort.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on the importance of establishing a UH Hilo VC-RED Office.