Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment & Technology and
Higher Education & the Arts
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by
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SCR 145/SR 107 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI TO PARTNER WITH THE
HAWAII STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE HIGH
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO COMMERCIALIZ
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CREATED BY BASIC AND APPLIED
RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI.

Chairs Wakai and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Slom and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaiʻi appreciates the intent of SCR 145/SR 107 to assist with
University-sponsored technology transfer activity and to support innovation in Hawaiʻi.
However, UH is not in support of this particular measure.

In relation to more established centers of innovation on the mainland, the ecosystem for
innovation and technology transfer in Hawaiʻi is still emerging and developing. As such,
the ecosystem would benefit from a diversity of efforts and multiple initiatives --
including those being put forth at UH.

As the primary public institution generating academic research in the state, an important
segment of UH’s mission is the creation of knowledge and intellectual property. As with
other universities nationally and internationally, UH’s goal is to not only to actively
pursue technology transfer, but to also develop and educate a new generation of
researchers and students to become successful scientific and social innovators and
entrepreneurs. Education, research, innovation and commercialization are all activities
that are interwoven and cannot be dealt with separately in a vacuum.

Through the Hawaiʻi Innovation Initiative, UH is already partnered with the Hawaiʻi
Strategic Development Corporation, the High Technology Development Corporation and
others in the Hawaiʻi innovation sector – including the local business community to help
create a third economic engine and diversify the state’s economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.