SB 3109

RELATING TO THE HAWAII PENAL CODE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing and
Senate Committee on Media, Arts, Science, and Technology

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By

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SB 3109  Relating to the Hawaii Penal Code

Chairs Menor and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Baker and Ige and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii supports SB 3109, which would establish a new set of Class B felonies and penalties in the area of identity theft.

The horrors of identity theft on its victims have been well-documented, as has been the astonishing growth in the occurrence of these crimes. The increasing use of computer technology in the perpetration of these crimes is one of the major reasons for this growth.

In particular, "phishing" and "spyware" are two of the common techniques used for obtaining personal and financial information used in identity theft. Computers are then often used to sell and distribute such information. And much of the damage associated with identity theft is perpetrated online by impersonating the individual to establish new accounts or compromise financial resources.

The recognition of these crimes as felonies and imposition of strong penalties on the perpetrators of these crimes can only help in our attempts to control this type of behavior and help prevent victimization of more innocent members of our community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 3109.