



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

By

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1584 HD2 – RELATING TO CARBON EMISSIONS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this measure that calls for a comprehensive study of a statewide carbon tax as a possible means of weaning the state off its dependency on fossil fuels and transitioning it toward clean energy sources.

While UH is staffed with the necessary researchers and specialist knowledgeable in the areas that need to be explored under this proposed tax, such a complex, multi-faceted study must be adequately funded by the State to ensure that UH can deliver accurate and comprehensive reports required by the Legislature. If the committee decides to add an appropriation to the University of Hawai'i, UH is in support of its intent as long as it is in addition to the University's Biennium Budget Request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.