



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Finance
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by

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HB 1552 HD1 – RELATING TO THE STADIUM DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is supportive of HB 1552 HD1, which clarifies the composition change to the stadium authority as added by Act 146, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, and requests an amendment be considered that the UH member be included as a voting member on the board.

As UH had requested last year, the bill should be revised to allow the UH representative to have a vote on the Stadium Authority Board. Considering that the new stadium project is primarily for, and will rely on the UH use of the stadium as a major activity, it is prudent to ensure that UH is a contributing participatory decision maker in the Authority decisions. On page 6, lines 18 thru page 7, line 2, I recommend the bill be amended to allow the UH representative be a voting member, as follows:

The [~~eleven members shall include~~] remaining two members shall be the president of the University of Hawaii and the superintendent of education, or their designated representatives, who shall [~~be~~] serve as ex-officio voting members of the authority [~~but shall not vote~~].

The inclusion of the UH President to the Stadium Authority Board originated out of the recognition that UH athletics was a primary anchor of the stadium and a foremost purpose for the stadium itself. This purpose remains a prominent component of the planned new stadium and the broader stadium district project. Having the UH President, or their designee, serve in a full capacity on the Stadium Authority will ensure that the broader project and eventual operation of the completed project has the governance input and involvement of one of the primary users and beneficiaries.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.