



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 28, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

By  
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And  
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HB 1769 HD1 – RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1769 HD1 relating to rapid ohia death (ROD), which is a companion bill to SB 2765.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has a long and productive history collaborating with the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the U.S. Forest Service. This cooperation and collaboration has extended to working to combat ROD. The University has a main component of the education/Extension task and has worked toward the objectives defined in the *Rapid Ohia Death Part 1: Strategic Response Plan*.

The University appreciates the budget and the expenditure plan, particularly in a difficult budget year. Since ohia is an iconic plant for the state of Hawai'i, and because it is the dominant tree throughout most of the state, its salvation benefits much of the Hawai'i ecosystem.

We strongly support HB 1769 HD1, but defer to the DLNR as to the ability to carry out the tasks with the proposed budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.