



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

by

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#### SB 3192 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly supports SB 3192 SD1 HD1, which makes its Innovation and Commercialization Initiative program permanent through the removal of the sunset provision of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2017, as amended by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai'i (SSLH) 2021, set for June 30, 2024.

This measure provides UH with the express statutory authority to sponsor and directly participate in the transformation of innovations created by its researchers into viable commercial enterprises.

The state's experience with the recent pandemic clearly demonstrated that it remains heavily dependent on a few economic sectors. As the state's only public system of higher education, UH plays a critical role in helping to diversify the economy by promoting research, discovery and commercial innovation.

A strong and comprehensive university level research program with the capacity to support commercial innovation will also help UH to remain competitive amongst its peer institutions.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 39, SLH 2017, as amended by Act 8, SSLH 2021, be repealed permanently through the passage of SB 3192 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.