



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
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by

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### HB 1617 HD 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO

Chairs Tokuda and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Baker, and members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Economic Development and Technology: Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1617, House Draft 1. This bill establishes in statute an office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and authorizes positions for a Vice Chancellor, staff, and faculty.

We thank the legislature for this intent to support the growth of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The University of Hawai'i recognizes that UH Hilo's growing research activity will require more coordination and leadership, and supports this proposal in principle at some future date after appropriate review. We are concerned, however, about establishing University positions or offices in statute.

Under the Hawai'i State constitution, the UH Board of Regents appoints the President of the University, and by statute, it appoints exempt personnel. Creating additional executive personnel at UH requires appropriate review by the Board of Regents within the context of a review of overall budget priorities as well as each campus' mission and role within the UH system. We note that an amendment to statute is not required to establish this office or position, and respectfully request that the Board of Regents' responsibility for such matters be honored.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.