



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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HB 1555 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1555 with a minor amendment.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is pleased to have this opportunity to testify regarding HB1555 that will create a research program on the stewardship of marine protected areas (MPA) at our University. The University is actively involved in research related to marine protected areas both in Hawaii and other countries. Much of this work is done by our Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center as part of its role to develop sustainable coastal communities. We view this bill as an opportunity to develop improved MPA management systems that incorporate native Hawaiian fishing practices. Further, the study will provide information that will lead to greater understanding of marine protected areas by a wider circle of stakeholders.

We request that the bill be amended to specify that the UH-Hilo's Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center will be responsible for submitting the proposals to obtain the specified federal funds and that, once those funds are obtained, the research will be conducted by the Center in cooperation with other UH departments.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.