



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
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by
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HB2481 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII HIGH IMPACT CENTER FOR COMMERCIALIZATION

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports the intent of HB2481 relating to the Hawai'i High Impact Center for Commercialization. It would be safe to say that Hawai'i has found some success in making a global impact in the areas of technology development, transfer, and commercialization, and there has been significant progress in establishing and sustaining Hawai'i's technology and commercialization industry. However, we must position ourselves as a leader in these areas and capitalize on the successes of Hawai'i's science and technology industries by establishing a commercialization program through the Hawai'i High Impact Center for Commercialization.

This Center represents the State's faith and confidence in the University's ability to assist and work alongside our local companies and technology community to be successful. It will provide direct investments into our technology companies and ensure that companies are held accountable for the success and contributions to the program. The Center will support Hawai'i's small businesses in the fields of dual-use technology, agriculture development, medical advancements, defense technologies, molecular manufacturing, humanitarian assistance, and disaster management and response. With the establishment of this Center and through the provisions of resources to its success, there will be long-term returns to the State through the creation of more jobs, reversing the "brain drain", economic development and revenue, and keeping high technology companies in Hawai'i.

The University applauds your committee and the House for considering, supporting and implementing such significant legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.