



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SCR 183

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE STATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Business & Economic Development,
Committee on Labor, and
Committee on Higher Education

April 4, 2005

By

Sam Callejo
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

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Chairs Espero, Kanno and Hee and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii supports the establishment of a task force on economic development and the role of the University of Hawaii in the economic future of the State of Hawaii. In 1998, in response to an economic revitalization task force put together by the Governor, Senate President and the Speaker of the House the Legislature passed Act 115 granting the University of Hawaii greater flexibility and autonomy. The task force's conclusion, which the legislature adopted, was that autonomy for the university would materially enhance the university's performance of its constitutional responsibilities and thereby contribute significantly to the economic revitalization of the State of Hawaii.

With the help of the Legislature the University of Hawaii has expanded its role as an economic driver of the state. As a generator of research, the university has more than doubled its research capacity to over \$300 million in research and training grants a year. These grants create high quality jobs and economic diversification.

As an educational institution, the training provided by the university supplies the workforce that drives the modernization and development of many sectors of our economy. The availability of a qualified workforce is an important requirement of the high technology industry. A talented workforce has been a magnet for the development of industries around universities in many other states.

We do suggest that the resolution be amended to indicate a lead agency for the convening of such a task force and an indication of the members and appointment process which will constitute this task force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 183.