



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, March 28, 2008, 2 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

by  
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### **SB 2394, HD 1      RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii opposes SB 2394, HD 1 which would appropriate funds to the High Technology Development Corporation for planning a technology park on Oahu and preparing a State Master Plan for Science and Technology (S&T).

As the largest science and technology organization in the State of Hawaii, the University has a vested interest in the creation of a State Master Plan for Science and Technology. In fact, many of our Federal funding agencies require evidence that their awards--especially in infrastructure and large, center-like awards--are not only meeting the needs of the nation, but also those of the state, as defined in an overarching S&T plan.

As you are aware, HB 2931 and SB 2860 were also introduced this session for the purpose of creating a Science and Technology Task Force that would bring together a broad range of stakeholders and resources from industry, academia, and government to develop a comprehensive master plan for the State. Specifically, the University supports SB 2860 Relating to a Technology Master Plan which has not been heard by the House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns. That bill (SB 2860) is much more comprehensive in that it specifies the various stakeholders needed to produce the plan, calls for review of the plan every two years, and will assist the Legislature in maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of science and technology in the State, including the development of new technology parks.

It is the view of the University that the planning for a technology park on Oahu, as called for in this bill, may well be a result of needs identified in a comprehensive science and technology master plan. However, until that need is identified and prioritized in the larger framework of the development of the technology industry in the State, it would be premature to proceed with such technology park planning.

We respectfully request that this bill be deferred and that the Legislature provide the resources needed to fund the Science and Technology Task Force pursuant to SB 2860. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill and for the continued recognition and support of the role of university research and education in the economic diversification of our State.