



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
and the  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
February 24, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.  
by  
Donald O. Straney, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### **SB 1390 RELATING TO ENERGY**

Chairs Fukunaga and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and English, and Members of the Committees:

I would like to lend my support to SB 1390, which makes certain changes to the composition of the board of directors and research advisory committee of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

One of the changes is to add the chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo or designated representative as an *ex officio*, voting member of the board of directors and to the research advisory committee. I am very much in favor of this step and welcome the opportunity to contribute to the authority's mission to facilitate research, development and commercialization of natural energy resources and ocean-related research in Hawai'i.

UH Hilo has a number of projects and initiatives that share important commonalities with NELHA, including our University Park of Science and Technology, as well as our Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Research Center. It is fitting that UH Hilo's chancellor contribute to setting NELHA's direction and help expand opportunities for collaboration between the university and NELHA.

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1390.