



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
and
Senate Committee on Water and Land
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by
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SB 707 Proposed SD1 - RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Solomon, Vice Chairs Slom and Shimabukuro, and
Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i **strongly opposes** Part XI (section 46) of SB 707, Proposed SD1, which would repeal current statutory provisions that provide the Research Corporation (RCUH) with flexibility in procurement and hiring. This language would completely eliminate the flexibility that was the basis of the creation of RCUH and which is absolutely essential to supporting the current research enterprise at the University of Hawai'i (UH) and enabling its growth.

The Legislature wisely recognized the unique requirements of the research industry in Hawai'i when it created RCUH in 1965 to support the UH research and training enterprise and afforded RCUH exemptions from constraining practices more appropriate for State operations than the kind of nimble enterprise that can compete for federal and other research and training funding. The flexibility the Legislature provided when it created RCUH has been absolutely essential to UH's research and training enterprise today. And this flexibility will be absolutely essential to supporting our plans to build a one billion dollar research industry in Hawai'i that addresses the problems facing our communities and expands our economy both directly and indirectly.

Repealing these exemptions would render RCUH irrelevant to research, training and economic development. Such an action will not just make it impossible to double research in Hawai'i over the next decade, as we have just set out to accomplish, but it would make it impossible to even sustain our current research and training enterprise.

We urge you to support economic development and research in Hawai'i by removing the language in SB 707, SD1 Part XI from consideration in this and any other bill you are considering.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.