UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment & Technology and
Higher Education & the Arts
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by
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SCR 145/SR 107 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO COMMERCIALIZE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CREATED BY BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chairs Wakai and Taniguchi, Vice Chair Slom and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaiʻi appreciates the intent of SCR 145/SR 107 to assist with University-sponsored technology transfer activity and to support innovation in Hawaiʻi. However, UH is not in support of this particular measure.

In relation to more established centers of innovation on the mainland, the ecosystem for innovation and technology transfer in Hawaiʻi is still emerging and developing. As such, the ecosystem would benefit from a diversity of efforts and multiple initiatives -- including those being put forth at UH.

As the primary public institution generating academic research in the state, an important segment of UH's mission is the creation of knowledge and intellectual property. As with other universities nationally and internationally, UH's goal is to not only to actively pursue technology transfer, but to also develop and educate a new generation of researchers and students to become successful scientific and social innovators and entrepreneurs. Education, research, innovation and commercialization are all activities that are interwoven and cannot be dealt with separately in a vacuum.

Through the Hawaiʻi Innovation Initiative, UH is already partnered with the Hawaiʻi Strategic Development Corporation, the High Technology Development Corporation and others in the Hawaiʻi innovation sector – including the local business community to help create a third economic engine and diversify the state's economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.