



Support for the University of Hawaii

Hawaii State Legislature

March 21, 2019

An Open Letter to the Hawaii State Legislature:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable strongly supports our State's only public university, the University of Hawaii. We have been active partners supporting the education of our students and diversifying our economy through the University of Hawaii's world class research. As a great Research University, UH provides students with a challenging world-class education while serving the people of Hawaii and beyond.

The Hawaii Business Roundtable strongly believes that a strong research and innovation sector led by the University of Hawaii can be a large and important magnet for new money and new fields of job growth in Hawai'i. A strong research and innovation sector is a vital component of the creation of jobs in the local economies of many universities across the country.

The University of Hawaii has many areas of program strengths, including ocean sciences, energy research, sustainable agriculture and astronomy, cybersecurity and health sciences. Its world recognized research brings hundreds of millions of dollars into Hawaii each year, supports thousands of jobs, and is a significant contributor to our economy. UH graduates and UH research are also responsible for many of the most innovative start-up organizations in Hawaii, many of which are now mature and have been recognized internationally.

Significant budget cuts and reduction of positions would have long term, devastating impacts on Hawaii's entire public statewide university system and its promise for our current and future students and communities across the islands. It would send a message to all of our Hawaii residents and just as importantly, to the world beyond that Hawaii does not support a strong University and the future it is creating for our young people.

On behalf of the members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable we urge you to reverse the proposed cuts and support the University of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of our University of Hawaii.


Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable