



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

by

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Friday, March 28, 2008

9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

HB 2587, HD1

RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH CREATIVITY ACADEMIES.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 2587, HD1, SD1 that makes an appropriation to establish Creativity Academies within public high schools in partnership with the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges.

I want to thank you for your efforts in working with the Department of Education, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges and Kapi'olani Community College. As has been stated by many who have testified before the Legislature on Creativity Academies, it is critical that we adopt new approaches that get an increasing number of students to engage in educational programs that prepare them with the skills necessary for their future success, as well as enabling them to contribute to the expansion of Hawai'i's innovation economy.

Creativity Academies will provide the enriched environment that allows members of our communities to develop the skills and knowledge that will allow them to fully participate in our economy and society. Over the past decade, the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, in partnership with a growing number of DOE high schools and various industry groups, have developed a number of successful career-focused academies, including the Cisco Networking Academies, the Construction Academies, and the HiEST Academies that focus on the development of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills and knowledge. Using contextual based hands-on curricula, these initiatives have increased the engagement of students who have previously not been involved in a rigorous program of study. This, I believe, is what we can expect from the implementation of the Creativity Academies Program.

Therefore, we request that this Committee support HB 2587, HD1, SD1, through an appropriation of \$1,629, 474 in support of the Creativity Academies partnership between the University of Hawai'i, Kapi'olani Community College, the Department of Education

Career and Technical Education and Digital Media Programs, and the Creative Industries Division of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to develop a program that seeks to integrate the teaching, learning and use of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and new media arts-related skills throughout Hawai'i's education system by:

- Locally developing a turnkey Creativity Academies curriculum that is built upon best practices to create a standards based curriculum, infuses the arts into STEM learning, and is responsive to the educational and workforce development needs of Hawai'i;
- Establishing and pilot testing the complete pathway program at Kapi`olani Community College, Oahu as well as testing the middle school curriculum on a neighbor island; and
- Developing and pilot-testing teacher training for all interested faculty statewide on Oahu at Kapi`olani Community College.

This initiative is consistent with the planned University system strategic outcomes that include: to develop the educational capital of the state; to develop our workforce; to diversify the economy; and to increase our efforts on behalf of underserved regions and populations, particularly Native Hawaiians. In addition, I believe it is essential to support the partnerships involved in this project in order for the State to meet its educational, social, and economic goals of continued development and growth.

We support HB 2587, HD1, SD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved Executive Supplemental Budget.