

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. 2971, HD1, (HSCR920-08), Relating to Education

Purpose: Directs department of education to implement recommendations of the online learning task force.

Department's Position: The Department strongly supports this bill and requests the Legislature's support in accepting the online task force's recommendation. Should funds be available beyond the Board's priorities, we request initial funding of \$1.5 million annually over the three years of expansion. Providing \$4.5 million implementation funding over three years creates the necessary momentum to develop a sustainable growth model. If funds are not appropriated, the DOE will implement the recommendations as far as possible with current funds.

Online learning is the strategic vehicle that makes possible the transformation of the Department of Education into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning institution. It provides a flexible, alternative environment for our students. It is the catalyst for the delivery of education and training throughout the P-20 landscape, as well as workforce development for Hawaii. The DOE requests that a section be added to repeal this statute June 30, 2013.

## testimony

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**From:** Francisco Hernandez [fjh@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 2:17 PM  
**To:** testimony

Testimony regarding HB 2971

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

TIME:2:00p.m.

I write in strong support for this bill. As an educator within the state of Hawaii, I know the long history of educational innovations found within this state. Hawaii has been active in using online learning technologies throughout the span of K-20 institutions. The recommendations within this bill will help greatly to move forward in serving the needs of Hawaii students.

We know that online learning technologies can provide a rich curriculum and a learning opportunity to students anywhere in the state. We need to keep our schools and our educational system at the forefront of providing our students with the best available curriculum using the best available tools. The recommendations within this bill will allow our state to take benefit from the investments already made by our educators as well as those made by educators in other states and countries.

Francisco Hernandez, Ph.D.