

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2281 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 1, 2008 at 1:30 pm

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

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Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

SB 2281 establishes a crafts school within the UH Community College System whose purpose is to certify crafts persons and subcontractors in the crafts trade.

From the language in the bill it is unclear as to the industry that would be served by having such a school in place, the scope of the education and training that would be expected to be offered, or work place demand for graduates from such a school. All three of these elements are critical pieces of any new program proposal that would be considered by the University system administration or the Board of Regents. Establishing a new school would require justification beyond that required for a new program.

The UH Community Colleges currently offer a broad range of programs, both credit and non-credit, including apprentice training, designed to meet the various needs of the construction craft trades. If there are established needs beyond our current array of courses and programs, we would be glad to work with representatives from those industries to determine how best to meet the unmet needs.

The UH Community Colleges' mission is that of education and training. If there is a need to have crafts persons and subcontractors in the crafts trade certified, that is probably more appropriately within the scope of responsibility of the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

The University is unable to support the bill in its current form.

Date: February 1, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title: S.B. 2281, Relating to the University of Hawaii

Purpose: Establishes school within the community colleges of the University of Hawaii to certify crafts persons and subcontractors.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports this Bill as it will expand opportunities for students who want to receive certification for their skills in crafts that they may choose to pursue as a career or to receive further post-high school education in that area. The Department defers to the University of Hawaii, the identified expending agency, as to their funding priority for this program.