

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2008

Committee: Senate Judiciary and
Labor, Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 113 Educational Workforce Working Group

Purpose: Requesting the Educational Workforce Working Group to continue its work to plan and implement the recommendations proposed in its 2007 report to the legislature.

Department's Position: The Department supports this bill to continue the work of the group.

The Department also notes that a Data Committee has been established by the P-20 Council that has already initiated a coordinated database that facilitates data sharing, analysis and reporting to enable the report and research of issues that can be shared by partner institutions. Data has been uploaded from the Department's K-12 system and from the University of Hawaii system, and preliminary reports have been generated. The intent of this bill strongly supports this effort and the assessment of ongoing efforts would be an important consideration.

The Department further supports the need for the Working Group to create a community-business education exchange

program that is attached to a nonprofit organization for the purposes of administration. No matter how well-intentioned partners and volunteers are, unless there is an infrastructure in place to support and direct their efforts, they will not be as effective. Staff time and program resources must be explicitly devoted to these tasks.



**SCR 113 REQUESTING THE EDUCATIONAL WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP
TO CONTINUE ITS WORK TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE
RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED IN ITS 2007 REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE**

Senate Committee on Education

Date: March 17, 2008

Time: 1:15 pm

Room: 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supports this resolution. By not continuing with their work, the recommendations of the Educational Workforce Working Group will become yet another study and task force report set upon a shelf. Continued work, therefore, ensures the public and Legislature that the recommendations made by the Working Group are supported by plans, initiatives, and developments that actualize those recommendations.

OHA is especially supportive of the "stretch academic goals". Many of our beneficiaries express concerns on and have expressed needs for workforce development. In addition, many of our community partners work with OHA to improve those conditions such as through College Connections which strives to improve promotion and achievement in high school with a goal towards higher education and "Achieving the Dream National Initiative to improve retention and achievement of Hawaiian Students in community colleges to name a few.

The recommendations, proposed assessment and website are important tools in helping OHA better serve our constituents. As a result, we strongly support this resolution. Mahalo nui loa.