

SB747

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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 10, 2009

To: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225
State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**Testimony in Opposition of
S.B. 747, Relating to Workforce Development**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

S.B. 747 proposes to implement the following initiatives recommended by the educational workforce working group that was established as a result of Act 283, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007:

- Establish and appropriate funds for a comprehensive database to track students from grades kindergarten to twelve, and beyond, as they move into the workforce;
- Establish and appropriate funds for a community-based exchange coordinator position and support staff in the Department of Education for administrative purposes only, and housed within a nonprofit organization in Hawaii;

- Appropriate funds for enhancement of the Department of Education volunteer website;
- Extend and appropriate funds for the educational workforce working group that is housed within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for administrative purposes only; and
- Establish and appropriate funds for a website to be developed by the educational workforce working group for dissemination of information regarding workforce development resources, initiatives, and programs.

II. CURRENT LAW

Act 283, Session Laws of 2007, established the educational workforce working group to identify and address various issues relating to workforce needs. The group submitted a report containing issues and recommendations to the legislature, which was the basis for this bill. .

III. SENATE BILL

While the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations supports the intent of the bill, the Department has concerns about funding for the various initiatives because of budgetary constraints. The Department therefore recommends that this bill be held.

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

Committee: Senate Education and
Housing/Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 747, Relating to Workforce Development

Purpose: Address workforce development issues within the State through various initiatives, programs, and appropriations. Extends the educational workforce working group for 2 years.

Department's Position: The Department supports S.B. No. 747 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. A database tracking system will provide valuable student information to guide reform efforts. The Department, however, recommends the following enhancements.

1. The Department suggests that the community-based education exchange coordinator will work in collaboration with the Corporate and Community Partnerships Office (CCPO) in the Office of the Superintendent. CCPO currently initiates, coordinates, and promotes partners-in-education programs with various sectors of the community including businesses, trusts, and foundations, and other government agencies. This community-based education exchange coordinator should also

research other Hawaii-based systems that offer similar services so that multiple systems are not developed.

2. In Part IV, the Department recommends the work group not create a new website to disseminate workforce development information and resources. Instead, the work group should recommend enhancements to the existing Career and Technical Education website.
3. The Department also recommends that the workforce work group include a designee from the Career and Technical Education Center and a representative from the Department's Career and Technical Education program office.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND HOUSING
AND LABOR**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 747

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committees on Education and Housing, and Labor.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to provide comments on this measure which addresses education and workforce development issues in the state, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010. DBEDT will only address the portion of the measure relating to data sharing, we will defer to DLIR on all other aspects of this measure.

Currently, the University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and DBEDT are working together to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate data sharing in support of tracking and performance measurement. This group of agencies will be submitting grant proposals for stimulus and other funds to pursue this effort. The group greatly appreciates the support for that effort that this bill provides.

The National Governors Association and other Federal agencies have advocated that states adopt policies that bring about better cooperation between workforce development, economic development and educational agencies. In particular, it has been recognized that better data and the ability to track the progress of students through the educational pipeline are critical to ensuring the effectiveness educational reform and the development of a skilled workforce in a

century of increasing global competition. This level of cooperation must continue to be an important goal for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on
Education and Housing,
and Labor

February 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

SB 747 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Sakamoto and Takamine, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

As pointed out in SB 747, the educational workforce working group established by Act 238 SLH 2007, prepared and submitted a report to the legislature, which included numerous recommendations along with a significant number of detailed action steps. As participants in the process, we found the efforts of the group to be helpful in focusing attention on a number of complex issues that create barriers to the operation of a more efficient education to work pipeline.

The University and the Community Colleges would be happy to participate if the working group is extended for two additional years as called for in the bill.



Senate Committee on Education Housing and the
Senate Committee on Labor
February 11, 2009 at 2:00 pm
by
Tammi Oyadomari-Chun
Executive Director
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB 747 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Sakamoto and Takamine, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing and Committee on Labor: Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 737 that addresses workforce development issues within the State through various initiatives, programs, and appropriations.

Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education supports the intent of S.B. 747, specifically Part II related to tracking longitudinal data between the educational systems and the workforce.

Hawaii P-20 is a statewide partnership of the Good Beginnings Alliance, Department of Education and the University of Hawaii to improve educational outcomes for Hawaii. Promoting data-based decision making is a high value for Hawaii P-20. As a result, Hawaii P-20 periodically convenes its Data Committee which includes DOE, UH and Kamehameha Schools to address data issues related to the educational pipeline.

As noted in the bill, Hawaii P-20 is coordinating a joint UH-DOE effort to develop a reporting tool that will track students longitudinally from DOE to UH. This pilot system will be used to meet the state's requirements for its National Governors Association Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (NGA STEM) grant. Additionally, Hawaii P-20 is a part of a newly formed group of DOE, UH, DBEDT and DLIR that has begun to explore inclusion of workforce data (e.g., employment; wages) in the longitudinal data system.

In the bill, we would like to respectfully suggest that the “comprehensive tracking system” include DOE student data, workforce data *and* UH data. Also, rather than directing that the system include “creation of unique identifiers for each student,” that

Hawai'i P-20

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state agencies “develop a data sharing agreement to amass the complete range of data within the system” and that the system “assess the performance of the spectrum of educational reform efforts and resource allocations,” we would like to suggest that the newly formed group of DOE, UH, DBEDT and DLIR review and report to the Legislature on available data, capacity of the longitudinal data system tools, and resources needed to address those action items named in Section 3 of the bill.

Part II of S.B. 747 affirms the importance of longitudinal data about student progress and outcomes. Resources will be needed from the legislature or other sources for development and continuation of the longitudinal data tracking system to continue the linking of educational data and include workforce data. Private foundations have supported development of the longitudinal data tracking system, to date; however, expansion of the system from education to the workforce and ongoing maintenance and use of the system will require additional funds. If funds are provided, they should be allocated to UH since Hawaii P-20 has been facilitating the longitudinal data effort and is administratively housed at the University.

Hawaii P-20 supports the overall intent of this bill on condition that funds provided to support development of the longitudinal data tracking system do not affect the biennium budget priorities approved by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents or by the State Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.