



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**  
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**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 17, 2010

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To: Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And the members of the Committee on Labor

Date: February 18, 2010  
Time: 2:45 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224

From: James Hardway, Executive Director  
Workforce Development Council

**RE: SB 2122 - Relating to Research**

The Workforce Development Council (“WDC”) **strongly supports SB 2122** which would require the Department of Education, the University of Hawaii and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to share data to support research that will improve the education and workforce outcomes and meet the longitudinal data requirements of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”).

The WDC is a private-sector led body responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for all. The WDC is also the State Workforce Investment Board for purposes of the federal Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) of 1998. The WDC assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year strategic workforce investment plans and oversees workforce (public) investment activities in the state.

Along with the mandate that education and labor share data in order to improve workforce outcomes through ARRA, the WDC also sees the need for information sharing. This has been a vision of the WDC since before the current economic crisis and passage of the ARRA.

In the WDC’s Comprehensive State Plan for Workforce Development, State of Hawaii 2009-2014, Year One, the first priority recommendation made by the members was to improve the

delivery of timely education and training to prepare current and future workers for high-demand occupations.

In order to address this recommendation, the WDC noted as an action item in the comprehensive state plan the following:

“Encourage agencies that collect data useful to improving workforce development to share their data and develop a ‘common language’ across the system....Conduct a comprehensive audit of barriers to data sharing. Make Legislative and administrative recommendations to increase and encourage sharing”

The comprehensive audit was fulfilled last year as the P-20 Council held a forum with stakeholders in which many issues and barriers were identified. H.B. 2076 fulfills the first and final parts of the recommendation of linking up critical information across departments to improve workforce development goals. Furthermore, H.B. 2076 is in alignment with the WDC recommendations and priorities for the statewide workforce development infrastructure for the next five years in the area of continually developing the workforce development system in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.