

SB808

Date of Hearing: February 13, 2009

Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title: S.B. No. 808, Making an Appropriation for the Hawaii Teacher  
Cadet Program

Purpose: Appropriates funds for the Hawaii teacher cadet program.

Department's Position: The Department **opposes S.B. No. 808** at this time due to Hawaii's fiscal austerity and the priority to fund the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010. The Department recognizes the need to address the shortage of trained teachers for the public school system. However, the Department will be able to address teacher recruitment, training, and retention concerns and implement the Hawaii teacher cadet program through the Public and Human Services Pathway initiatives.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
February 13, 2009 at 2:30pm

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

### SB 808 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER CADET PROGRAM

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

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges **supports SB 808** and the Hawai'i Teacher Cadet Program.

The Vision of the Associate in Arts in Teaching (AAT) Program is to address the critical teacher shortage in the state of Hawai'i by preparing quality pre-service teachers who are locally educated and culturally sensitive to schools in their own communities. The program ensures the improvement of equity and access to teacher education for underrepresented groups and non-traditional students. Our vision is in direct alignment with the goals of the Teacher Cadet Programs.

The AAT program has established relationships with local high schools. The model of a 2 + 2 + 2 pipeline has been successful in attracting high school students to begin obtaining college credits through the Running Start program. These students typically come to campus having earned college credits in general education and education courses (ED100, Introduction to Teaching). In addition, the Teacher Cadet program currently established in high schools in our Leeward area provide recruits who enter the AAT education courses with knowledge of lesson preparation and delivery, as well as, an understanding of the teaching profession.

The goals of the AAT program are consistent with the goals set forth in strategic planning documents for the UH System and the UH Community Colleges by directly addressing workforce development. The AAT Vision which seeks to improve equity and access to teacher education for underrepresented groups, as well as to address the critical teacher shortage in the state (workforce development) reinforces the importance of allocating funds for the Teacher Cadet Programs.

As part of the report to the legislature, the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center included data published by the DOE with statistics demonstrating the high percentages of teacher turnover and school sites that are deemed "hard to staff." Out of a list of 49

statewide districts, 17 sites were listed from the Leeward and Central complexes. The improvement in the local supply of teacher licensure candidates, with commitment to the island communities that produce them, is critical if we are to meet the expected demand for teachers<sup>1</sup>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 808.

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<sup>1</sup> The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center, Report to the 2008 Legislature, January, 2008



HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER  
*Informing the Education Community*

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

February 13, 2009, 2:30 pm, Room 225

by  
Donald B. Young, Director  
Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center

**SB 808: Making an Appropriation to the Hawaii Teacher Cadet Program**

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

The Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) supports funding for the Hawaii Alliance for Future Teachers (HAFT) as a viable mechanism to address the state teacher workforce needs and offers a friendly amendment.

While not a short-term solution, supporting HAFT will further efforts to recruit the best of Hawai‘i’s students into education and to “grow our own” teachers. The preliminary work done by the Hawai‘i Alliance for Future Teachers has been successful in working with a number of high schools in Hawai‘i. HAFT has developed enthusiasm for teaching among high school students and provided a new way to reach out to recruit potential new teachers. As we have testified in previous years, the established teacher cadet program is supported by all of the Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) involved in teacher preparation, who work closely and actively with HAFT.

However, given the scarcity of available funds, HEPC strongly urges that SB 808 be amended to require HAFT to begin collecting data on the effectiveness of its program in successfully getting graduates to enter the field of teaching.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.