

SCR 128

Testimony

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS MAJORS RELEVANT TO INDUSTRY DEMANDS IN HAWAII.

Report Title:

STEM; University of Hawaii; Task Force

Description:

Companion:

Package:

None

Current Referral:

HRE, WAM

Introducer(s):

TOKUDA, RUDERMAN, Gabbard



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 18, 2014 at 2:45pm

by
Dr. Joanne Itano
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 128 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS MAJORS RELEVANT TO INDUSTRY DEMANDS IN HAWAII.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i supports this concurrent resolution. Occupations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields are increasingly vital to the economic growth and productivity of our state and our country, and the University is working to train and educate college students, as well as work with our K-12 partners, to be prepared for STEM occupations.

As noted in the concurrent resolution, the University has, as one of its strategic measures, to increase the number of UH degrees in STEM fields, and every campus has identified various initiatives to support this priority.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 18, 2014 at 2:45 pm
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

SCR 128 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS MAJORS RELEVANT TO INDUSTRY DEMANDS IN HAWAII.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education supports this resolution. As an organization that works in partnership with the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Hawaii Department of Education and the University of Hawaii, Hawaii P-20 works to improve the educational pipeline and facilitates seamless educational experiences across systems.

In our role facilitating initiatives across the educational pipeline, Hawaii P-20 wishes to work with our partners to increase the preparedness of students to become science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors. Studies are clear that STEM occupations are the pathway to economic vitality and innovation not only for the State of Hawaii but also for our country. Although difficult work, this resolution outlines solid first steps to the coordination and prioritization of the various statewide STEM initiatives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

Uploaded via Capitol Website

March 18, 2014

TO: HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI, CHAIR, HONORABLE GILBERT KAHELE, VICE CHAIR AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SCR 128**, REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS MAJORS RELEVANT TO INDUSTRY DEMANDS IN HAWAII.

HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Capitol Room 414

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of approximately six hundred (600) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. The GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

The GCA supports the adoption of S.C.R. No. 128, Requesting the University of Hawaii to Create a Task Force to Develop a Plan to Increase the Number of Students in Science, Technology, Engineering, And Mathematics Majors Relevant To industry Demands in Hawaii.

The construction industry in Hawaii is predicted to grow at a rapid pace in the coming decade as Hawaii's economy recovers and expands along with the rest of the nation. The construction industry will be one of the first sectors leading Hawaii's economic recovery. The construction industry is highly dependent on an adequate supply of trained engineers, architects and technology graduates to plan and design the construction projects before the first shovel of dirt on a construction job is turned. A well-educated and trained supply of local graduates in STEM fields is vital to the continued development and health of Hawaii's construction industry.

A coordinated effort between the educators and the businesses that ultimately employ the UH graduates in the STEM fields will help to insure that the graduates possess the kind of skills sought by the businesses that will ultimately employ them.

Planning insure future UH STEM graduates possess the education and training that is relevant to industry needs is vital to continued growth of our construction industry. Coordination of the future workforce needs and the training that is provided to our STEM graduates will insure that Hawaii will not be faced with hundreds of unfilled jobs due to lack of the right kind of preparation required by the job market.

The GCA supports the adoption of S.C.R. 128, by the Senate Higher Education Committee.