



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 1, 2014 at 9:00am

by

Joanne Itano

Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Hawai'i

SCR 128 SD1 – 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 Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee on Ways and Means:

The University of Hawai'i supports this 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 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.



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April 1, 2014 at 9:00 am
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.

Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

SCR 128, SD 1 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 Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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.

Hawaii P-20

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