

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JAMES K. NISHIMOTO
DIRECTOR

CINDY S. INOUE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

March 28, 2016

**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

For Hearing on Wednesday, March 30, 2016
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

By
JAMES K. NISHIMOTO
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

**Senate Bill No. 2543
Relating to Education**

Written Testimony Only

CHAIRPERSON LUKE, VICE CHAIRPERSON NISHIMOTO AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

SB 2543 adds as a purpose of the University of Hawai'i community college system the provision of occupational training and certification programs designed to rapidly qualify persons to fill new and hard-to-fill position classes for the State, counties, and private sector that require technical skills.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) **strongly supports** this bill as it will help the University of Hawai'i community colleges provide individuals with occupational and certification program career options to meet the workforce needs of the public and private sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 30, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

By
John Morton, VP for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i

SB 2543 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2543. This measure would amend the statute that prescribes the functions of the UH Community Colleges to include rapid response occupational training and certification programs.

It is a core function of the UH Community Colleges to provide short-term, rapid response training to meet the continually changing requirements of the State's economy. Codification into statute provides formal recognition of this function as well as defines the specific expectations of the Legislature on how to fulfill this very important need.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and strongly supports its passage on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2543 RELATING TO EDUCATION

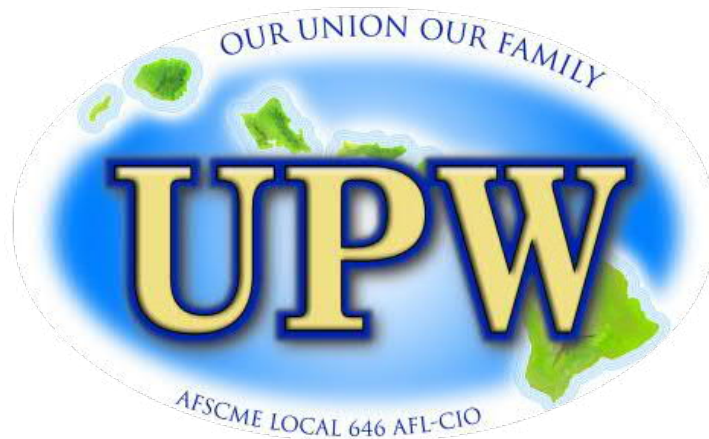
Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2543, which adds as a purpose of the University of Hawaii community college system the provision of occupational training and certification programs designed to rapidly qualify persons to fill new and hard-to-fill position classes of the State, counties, and private sector that require technical skills.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports SB 2543 as a necessary beginning step to addressing the lack of a prepared workforce. There are many jobs in the state that require a certain level of technical skills and a lack of programs that offer training and certification of these skills. Although the community colleges within the state have two- or four-year technical education programs, these programs are too long and cannot meet an employer's immediate need to quickly train a candidate for a specific position that requires a certain skill. This bill would help the community college system focus on rapid training to better meet the needs of Hawaii's employers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The Hawaii State House of Representatives
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Silvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 30, 2016

TIME OF HEARING: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St.
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2543 RELATING TO EDUCATION

By Dayton M. Nakanelua,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, and I am the state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

SB2543 adds a purpose of the University of Hawaii community college system to provide occupational training and certificate programs designed to rapidly qualify persons to fill new and hard-to-fill position classes of the State, counties, and private sector that require technical skills.

The UPW **supports** this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LATE

Committee on Finance
Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto

SB 2543
Wednesday March 30, 2016
Room 308 2:00pm

Genine Marie Tacadena
1260 Richard Lane 405B
Honolulu, HI 96819
Gtacadena@icloud.com

My name is Genine Marie Tacadena and I am a student at the Myron B Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I support SB 2543.

Simply stated, this bill will not only offer job opportunities and readiness but it might also affect the University of Hawaii Community College attendance and enrollment numbers.

Less and less students are attending college because Hawaii's job market favors those with less education and more job experience. While college exposes a person to things they've never learned about before, it does not necessarily give them the required tools to hold or even attain a particular job; which is what this bill intends to do. This bill might emphasize the importance of an education and a degree in a state where only about 50% of high school graduates pursue a higher education.

Once again I support this bill, SB2543.

Thank you,

Genine Marie Tacadena