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March 10, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND COMMITTEE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

For Hearing on Friday, March 11, 2016
10:30 a.m., Conference Room 309

By

JAMES K. NISHIMOTO
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Senate Bill No. 2543
Relating to Education

CHAIRPERSONS NAKASHIMA AND CHOY, VICE CHAIRS KEOHOKALOLE AND ICHIYAMA AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION:

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 Committees on Labor & Public Employment
and
Higher Education
March 11, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
By
John Morton, VP for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i

SB 2543 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Nakashima and Choy, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Ichiyama, and members of the committees:

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 Labor & Public Employment and
Committee on Higher Education
Friday, March 11, 2016 at 10:30 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2543 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Nakashima and Choy, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Ichiyama, and Members of the Committees:

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.

LATE



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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Chair
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, March 11, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 309

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.

