

SB2543

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Report Title: Rapid Occupational Training and Certification Program; University Of Hawaii Community College System (\$)

Description: 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. Appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for the programs. Effective 07/01/16.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/JDL, WAM

Introducer(s): TOKUDA, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, ENGLISH, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, INOUE, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, SHIMABUKURO



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts
and
Judiciary and Labor
February 11, 2016 at 1:20 pm
By
John Morton, VP for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i

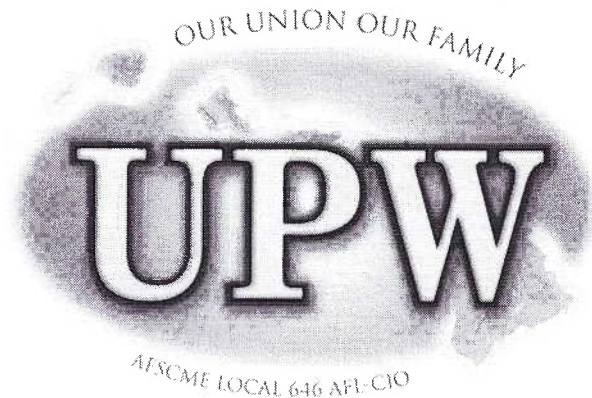
SB 2543 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Taniguchi and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro 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.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS (HEA)/
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR (JDL)
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair (HEA)
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair (JDL)
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair (JDL)

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, February 11, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 1:20 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2543 RELATING TO EDUCATION

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 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. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

SB2543 makes explicit the responsibility of the University of Hawaii community colleges to provide short-term and rapid response occupational and certification programs designed to qualify individuals to fill new and hard-to-fill positions that require technical training in the State and counties. The UPW strongly supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts and
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:20 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2543 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Taniguchi and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, 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.