

# SCR79 / SR50

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Measure Title: REQUESTING THE CREATION OF HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH ACADEMIES STATEWIDE.

Report Title: High School Health Academies

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, Baker, Dela Cruz, Espero, Galuteria, Green, Harimoto, Ihara, Inouye, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, Riviere, Shimabukuro, Slom



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/28/2016

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 229

**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
and Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 079 REQUESTING THE CREATION OF HIGH SCHOOL  
HEALTH ACADEMIES STATEWIDE.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 79 that requests the establishment of health academies at high schools throughout the State similar to the model of the Farrington High School Health Academy.

Health academies provide students with the opportunity to develop career interests in health care and in preparing for entry level positions in health occupations.

Currently, 30 high schools offer health related Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study, with 4,406 students registered in Health related CTE courses statewide. The following high schools offer CTE Health Occupations related Career Pathway programs within the school's, academies, smaller learning communities or a traditional program course sequence, they are: Aiea, Baldwin, Campbell, Castle, Farrington, Hilo, Kailua, Kalaheo, Kalani, Kapaa, Kapolei, Kauai, Keaau, Kealakehe, Kekaulike, Kohala, Konawaena, Lahainaluna, Leilehua, Maui, McKinley, Mililani, Moanalua, Molokai, Pearl City, Radford, Waiakea, Waianae, Waimea, and Waipahu.

Last September, the Department announced its commitment to reset career education by adding rigor and value to programs preparing high school graduates for high-skilled, high-demand jobs. Using economic development data and partnerships with community employers, the Department will design more rigorous career readiness pathways that span secondary and postsecondary levels, culminating in credentials for students.

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is facilitating this work, which pursues recommendations made in Opportunities and Options, a report of CCSSO's Career Readiness Task Force. The report encourages states to make high school programs more responsive to the labor market by enlisting the employer community as a lead partner; significantly raise the threshold for quality career pathways in secondary schools; and make career preparation matter to schools and students, in part by expanding accountability systems to emphasize career readiness.

These supports will allow students to reach their full potential and expand on the successful programs that have carried them into the workforce after high school. For all states, CCSSO will develop an online resource center to provide strategies, case studies, self-assessment tools, communications materials and models of best practice.

Hawaii is among a group of 17 states that announced a commitment to develop and execute a detailed plan to implement the task force recommendations. That includes making career readiness a higher priority in state accountability systems by incorporating a more robust set of career-focused indicators that measure and value successful completion of meaningful pathways, work-based learning experiences, and credentials. CCSSO launched its Career Readiness Task Force in the Spring of 2014 to increase the rigor in career education to meet expectations of the current labor market.

The Department has recognized its public high schools that are already making progress in raising the bar toward workforce development learning, including Farrington High School. Last September, 70 Farrington High School students were inducted into its Health Academy. Farrington's Health Academy was one of only 12 schools in the nation to earn the U.S. Dept. of Education's Secretary Award for Outstanding Vocational Technical Education. For more information, please visit: <http://farringtonhighschool.libguides.com/health>.

The Department is committed to refining its education strategies based on CCSSO's best practices combined with the work that is currently being done in our schools.

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



**March 28, 2016 at 10:00 AM**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Education**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair Breene Harimoto

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker  
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

From: George Greene  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**SR 50, Requesting the Creation of High School Health Academies Statewide**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committees for the opportunity to **support** SR 50. We are appreciative of the support from the legislature to expand the reach of health academies to more high schools across the state, based on the model of the Farrington Health Academy.

The Farrington Health Academy was founded in 1991 due to the efforts of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and the health care industry. The impetus for the establishing of the academy was concerns expressed by many of our members about the rising demand for health care workers amid a potential labor shortage. To get the academy off the ground, HAH and a number of its hospital members, provided support. Since then, the program has received generous financial support from members such entities as the Kaiser Foundation, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the state legislature. HAH continues to contribute funds every year for induction and graduation ceremonies at the Farrington Health Academy.

The reason HAH, its members, and other organizations continue their support for the program is tied to its great success in preparing students for careers in the health care sector. The

academy has graduated seven classes comprised of approximately 50 students. These classes focused on building skills, encouraging interdisciplinary learning, emphasizing the pursuit of higher education and providing opportunities for mentorships and internships. With continued provider shortages, especially in rural areas, the expansion of the Farrington Health Academy model would likely help to close gaps. This would be done by providing students with exceptional educational and vocational opportunities.

We believe that the expansion of these programs will benefit our students, seniors, and all residents in the state and ask for your support of this resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.