



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business  
March 22, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 298 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee:

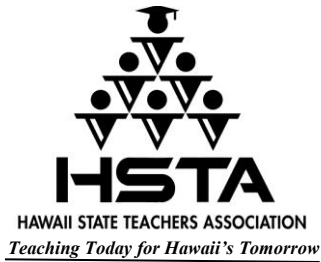
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 298 SD1 HD1. This bill proposes to establish “a workforce readiness program within the department of education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate's degree.” This bill asks for a formal and intentional connection between DOE pathways, UH programs and industry partners, and this bill further asks that this workforce readiness program resides within the department of education.

As a result of preparing for a recent DOE grant opportunity around career readiness, there exists a working committee involving the head of the State CTE department, UH and DOE leaders that is still going forward. In addition, the UHCC System Office has developed a sector/labor mapping site that is used as a means to engage the leadership of all major economic sectors in the state of Hawai'i, in a formal, cyclic, and intentional fashion. The University of Hawai'i's new website organizes all the jobs in the state of Hawai'i into sector grouping. Each job in the state has its own landing page and detailed there are the following: current demand, projected demand, salary ranges, degree levels required by industry, skill sets required (soft and hard), and a listing of companies that are hiring. In addition, the web site shows how DOE pathways lead to programs in the University of Hawai'i and then into industry.

The leadership of the banking sector and the chief information officers from all major sectors have already met with UH and the DOE and as a result have established formal relations and specific projects and programs have evolved from this engagement. These sector convenings also include the DOE and as a result there is ongoing work to connect the program pathways in the DOE with UH Associate programs and also direct connection with industry partners. In sum, much of current activity in the DOE and in UHCC system is dedicated to connection the curriculum directly with workforce opportunities.

The University of Hawai'i Community College supports the intent of this bill and would add that most of what is asked for is already taking place. We defer to the DOE on the legal and technical considerations on this matter.

Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

RE: SB 298, SD1, HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 298, SD1, HD1**, relating to schools.

According to the Hawaii State Department of Education, “Career and Technical Education is an educational structure that allows students the opportunity to explore and learn through the practical application of academic and technical skills and knowledge. The support and involvement of business and industry in CTE is critical to the preparation of tomorrow's skilled workforce.”

Yet, there is concern among CTE stakeholders (teachers, industry experts, and employers) about the lack of CTE inclusion in federal education legislation. As a result of the federal emphasis on high stakes accountability over the past decade, secondary schools across the state have diverted CTE funding to core content areas, especially English Language Arts and mathematics.

A majority of all current job openings, both locally and nationally, are for positions that do not require a college degree. While education reform rhetoric endlessly extols “college and career readiness,” job projections by the Hawai'i Department of Labor show that, overall, more than 72 percent of the state's projected openings through 2022 require a high school diploma or less. For comparison, about 15 percent of future openings require a bachelor's degree and only 4 percent require a master's, doctoral, or professional degree.

Hawai'i's CTE offerings must be expanded, then, to allow young people to design their own futures. According to a national study, only 25 percent of polled job seekers reported receiving career pathing in high school, however, with 41 percent saying that they wished they had received more vocational guidance. Careers taught through the state's CTE program—from automotive technology to environmental management to digital media—are at the cutting edge of our local economy, requiring real-world skills that students and employers desire, and that the CCRI paradigm too often fails to advance.

Vocational training should be a viable alternative to college, which is increasingly cost prohibitive for high school graduates and their families. One way of increasing participation in CTE programming is to establish a workforce readiness program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate's degree, as this bill proposes, which would allow the 44 percent of Hawai'i high school graduates who do not seek post-secondary education to receive industry-based skills and certifications required to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century job market.

To prepare students to become members of the modern workforce, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**keohokalole2 - Anthony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 10:21 PM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB298 on Mar 22, 2017 11:00AM\*

**SB298**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

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

**Date:** 03/22/2017

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Economic Development &  
Business

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0298, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a workforce readiness program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate's degree. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program. (SB298 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 298 SD1 HD1 to establish a workforce readiness program. The Department values its ongoing collaboration with the University of Hawaii to develop a new industry-led career and technical education (CTE) and appreciates the recognition of the necessary resources to implement such a program.

The Department has launched Connect to Careers, or C2C, an industry-led coalition for Hawaii's economic future to collaboratively prepare students for success in high-skill, in-demand careers at both state and regional levels. It is a business-led effort with aligned K-16 curriculum and opportunities that will be tracked for effectiveness via data and industry feedback. Partners include employers, state educational systems, funders, and workforce and economic development agencies. Learn more at [hawaiipublicschools.org](http://hawaiipublicschools.org), search "C2C" or visit <http://tinyurl.com/jtwt3gf>.

Respectfully, the Department submits the following amendments for consideration:

- (1) p. 2, line 13, subsection (b), replace "shall" with "may"
- (2) p. 2, line 15, delete "schools" and begin the sentence with "The": "The workforce readiness program shall:"
- (3) p. 3, line 3, insert "or licenses" after "certificates", delete "in addition to an associate's degree"
- (4) p. 3, line 12, delete "enter into contracts with"
- (5) p. 3, line 15, change "shall" to "may"

Lastly, the Department estimates \$1,054,000 for 17.0 FTE 12-month positions (15 complex area resource teachers and 2 educational specialists) and \$250,000 in operational funds to support the start up and establishment of a workforce readiness program for school year 2017-18 provided that the passage of SB 298 SD1 HD1 does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Board of Education-approved budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 298 SD1 HD1.