

SB945 SD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AUTHORIZATION.

Report Title: Post-Secondary Education; Provisional Authorization; Candidate for Accreditation

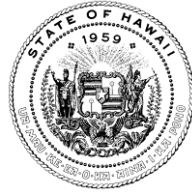
Description: Creates a framework for authorizing post-secondary degree-granting educational institutions that have applied for accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Companion: HB1079

Package: Governor

Current Referral: HRE, CPH/WAM

Introducer(s): KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017
FEBRUARY 28, 2017
9:30 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 945, S.D. 1
RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AUTHORIZATION

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 945, S.D. 1, Relating to Post-Secondary Education Authorization. My name is Bobbi Lum-Mew, Program Administrator for the Department's Hawaii Post-Secondary Education Authorization Program ("HPEAP"). HPEAP offers the following testimony in strong support of this bill.

Senate Bill No. 945, S.D. 1 provides a mechanism to enable post-secondary degree-granting educational institutions within the state who are in the process of

qualifying for full accreditation to receive provisional state authorization. The bill will benefit students by providing a means of oversight so that the Department will be able to monitor that the accreditation-seeking institution is making satisfactory progress towards accreditation. Most, if not all, other states issue some type of temporary authorization or approval to institutions that are in the process of applying for accreditation.

Senate Bill No. 945, S.D. 1 also empowers the Director to grant a temporary waiver of the requirement for accreditation for good cause, and if necessary, for the protection of students facing imminent financial hardship, such as where the accrediting agency's recognition by the U.S. Department of Education is withdrawn. A situation such as this happened recently with the withdrawal of the recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). While Hawaii was fortunate that none of its authorized institutions were accredited by ACICS, HPEAP has followed all the state regulator discussions to make sure that Hawaii is prepared for this situation in the future.

This bill will enable HPEAP to carry out its responsibilities more effectively. We noted the effective date is May 12, 2059 and request that it be made effective upon approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill No. 945, S.D. 1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:43 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mramos8@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB945 on Feb 28, 2017 09:30AM

SB945

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for CPH/WAM on Feb 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marielle Ramos	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health This testimony, I do believe A Bill for an Act relating to Post – Secondary Education Authorization will be a great way for students and other people to get accreditation by the department of education. I think the islands should have and accept more people based on their credentials. By authorizing a post secondary degree granting education institutions, the U.S Department of Education will increase in the future. More and more people are able to get the education they need and have the accreditation from different candidates.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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