



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SCR 167/SR 81 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
ESTABLISH A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SCR 167/SR 81, urging the Department of Education to establish a vocational education out-of-school program.

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. One way of increasing participation in CTE programming is to offer after-school vocational training that aligns with classroom content and standards, as this measure accomplishes, which would also benefit the 38 percent of local children who are not enrolled in an after-school program, but would be likely to participate in one available in their communities.

To prepare students for the 21st Century workforce, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 1:15 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 24, 2017 14:45PM*

SR81

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 24, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov