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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda 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.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho`o

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

April 1, 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

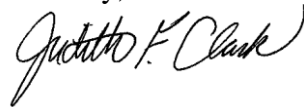
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 167/SR 81 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 167/SR 81 Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a Vocational Education Out-of-School Program.

The proposed program will have multiple benefits. It will increase safety and provide positive youth development opportunities for students who would otherwise be unsupervised during after-school hours. It is likely to increase interest in science, technology, math, and engineering careers, where there is an unmet demand for workers. In the 2016 Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol, youth identified hands-on education on real life skills as a top priority.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director