



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

Date: 02/23/2018
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2242, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the establishment of a workforce development microgrant program to award grants to public high school students for costs associated with technical or workforce training related to certain industries. (SD1)

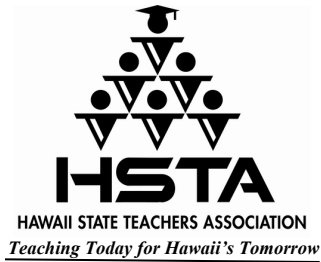
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2242, SD1 and recognizes this measure provides multiple opportunities for the Department to assist Hawaii public high school students who are pursuing technical or workforce training.

Further, the Department appreciates additional program funding provided the passage of SB 2242, SD1 does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOE-approved budget.

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

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



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

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2242, SD 1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2242, SD 1**, relating to education.

According 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 cutbacks to CTE programming. As a result of a federal and state emphasis on high stakes accountability over the past decade, secondary schools across 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 extols “college and career readiness,” job projections by the Hawai‘i Department of Labor show that, overall, more than 70 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.

Workforce development offerings must be expanded 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, with 41 percent saying that they wished they had received more vocational guidance. Careers taught through the department's vocational programming—from financial management to civil engineering to teaching—are at the core of our local economy, requiring real-world skills that benefit both students and employers alike.

Vocational training should be a viable alternative to college, which is increasingly cost prohibitive for high school graduates and their families (though, notably, students who obtain CTE certifications attend college a higher rate than students who do not). One way of increasing participation in CTE programming is to provide workforce development microgrants to obtain vocational training, 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 21st 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.

SB-2242-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:31:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2242-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:39:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2242-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:13:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments: