



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Labor  
February 13, 2018 at 2:45 p.m.

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

### SB 2356 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Kahele and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Kim and English, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2356. This measure would amend the statute that prescribes the functions of the UH Community Colleges to include rapid response occupational training and certification programs.

It is a core function of the UH Community Colleges to provide short-term, rapid response training to meet the continually changing requirements of the State's economy. Codification into statute provides formal recognition of this function as well as defines the specific expectations of the Legislature on how to fulfill this very important need.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and strongly supports its passage on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 13, 2018

To: The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair,  
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2018  
Time: 2:45 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director  
Workforce Development Council  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. 2356 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

This proposal appropriates funding to the University of Hawaii community colleges to provide short-term and rapid response occupational training and certification programs designed to qualify individuals to fill new and hard-to-fill positions of the State, counties, and private sector that require technical training.

The Workforce Development Council (WDC) wishes to offer comments as it relates to the agency's implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

**II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

Congress passed WIOA in 2014 and the federal law provides opportunities to improve job and career options for Hawaii workers and job seekers. There is ongoing collaboration with education (K-12), postsecondary, adult education, business,

industry, and other core partner stakeholders to establish a career pathway system that makes it easier for students, adult learners, job seekers and others to attain the skills and credentials needed for jobs. The workforce, human services, and educational systems are being brought into alignment through cross-agency training, shared common performance measures that inform data-driven decision-making and develop strategies for sector partnership, and career pathway systems and programs at the local level.

Led by the University of Hawaii's Career and Technical Education (CTE), a Career Pathway Model has been developed that connects progressive levels of education, training, support services, and credentials for specific occupations that streamlines the progress and success of individuals with varying levels of abilities and needs. This approach helps individuals earn marketable credentials, engage in further education and employment, and actively engages employers to help meet their workforce needs. Career and technical education programs of study, including those that lead to industry recognized credentials, are a critical component of career pathway systems, along with pathways serving lower-skilled adults, high school students, disconnected or "opportunity" youth, veterans, incumbent workers, individuals with a disability, public assistance recipients, new immigrants, English language learners, and other targeted populations.

The model is in being incorporated into the American Job Centers (formerly One-Stop Career Centers) throughout the State to address changing workforce demands.

The US Department of Education is developing public materials for its website and Hawaii will be profiled to highlight the Hawaii Career Pathway model.

Information received from "The Hawaii Career Pathway System"

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2017/09/Narrative-Career-Pathway-System-Rev-7.20.17.pdf>

**SB-2356**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 2:08:35 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying on behalf of OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2356**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 6:00:52 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Travis Idol		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to meet the skilled labor needs of Hawaii and provide local residents opportunities to advance their skills and career options.