



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

**LATE**

**Date:** 01/31/2018

**Time:** 01:35 PM

**Location:** 414

**Committee:** Senate Economic Development,  
Tourism, and Technology  
Senate Education  
Senate Higher Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2523 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop regional economic plans for each county to provide jobs in urban and rural areas of each county based on the development or community boundaries of each respective county. Requires Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to work with the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii to develop K-12 pathways for each school that emphasize skills necessary to meet the State's specific industry needs.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) strongly supports the intent of SB 2523. The Department looks forward to collaborating with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the University of Hawaii to develop and provide K-12 specific career industry pathways in each school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2523.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

**LATE**

**SB-2523**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:50:58 PM

Testimony for ETT on 1/31/2018 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ron Whitmore	Dept of Research & Development, Hawaii County	Oppose	No

Comments:

The County of Hawai'i appreciates the legislature's concern about job and economic opportunities in rural areas of the State. Economic insecurity is particularly acute on Hawai'i Island, which has historically had the highest rates of unemployment in the State, the lowest average wages and median income, and highest poverty rates.

Respectfully, the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development does not support SB 2523 as currently written because it makes the State responsible for developing regional economic development plans for each county.

Every five years, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism updates the State's regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). While the CEDS fulfills its purpose as a requirement for U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant eligibility, there is opportunity for improvement by including more local involvement and better integration of other existing local plans such as the General Plan and Community Development Plans. As it relates directly to this bill, care should also be taken to coordinate additional economic development planning with the CEDS so as to avoid duplication of effort and redundancy.

Likewise, a regional economic development planning process, as proposed in SB 2523, is best led by the communities the plan would serve. The services of DBEDT would still be needed -- DBEDT can provide critical technical assistance and planning expertise for each County. But a planning process led by the local jurisdiction will result in a more context-sensitive, implementable plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



**LATE**

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 31, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2523**  
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Room 414  
1:35 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Kidani, Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

I am **Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB)**. Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports SB 2523, which develops a process for a labor pipeline to meet County Economic Development needs.**

Various plans that provide visions for the future are developed but too often, the details of how the vision will become a reality is not addressed. This measure seeks to develop a pipeline of skilled people to meet the economic development needs of the Counties. As these are County needs, the County General Plans and dialogue with the Counties themselves should provide guidance for future labor requirements.

Agriculture is a key industry in all counties. However, Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age exceeds 60 years old and if these farmers were in other professions, they would already be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to Safeway, Times, and Costco; they are making a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately, many of these farmers have no succession plans, so that as they retire, the lands go out of agricultural production. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but to eventually take over operations.

This proposed **process should leverage other efforts in the state such as resource pathways in the Department of Education, and Workforce development by the Department of Labor.** To fill this need, the process should be part of a systematic approach to train those interested in agriculture. We respectfully request your support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**LATE**

**March 30, 2017 at 1:15pm**  
Conference Room 414

**Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology**

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

To: Senator Kaialii Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

From: Carl Hinson  
Director, Workforce Development

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2523, Relating to Economic Development**

---

My name is Carl Hinson, and I am the Director of Workforce Development at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support of SB 2523 which requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to develop regional economic plans for each county based on the boundaries of the development or community plans in each county, including working with the Department of Education (DOE) and the University of Hawai'i to provide K-12 pathways in each school to match the State's specific industry needs.

The Chamber of Commerce and Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH) are currently collaborating on a Sector Strategy Initiative to build sectoral workforce partnerships and create talent supply chains that close skills gaps and strengthen our local economy. The

convening of representatives from industries critical to our state economy and leadership from key public systems is important in forums for information sharing and joint, sector-focused policymaking. Collaboration between DBEDT, DOE, and the University of Hawai'i will help to remove barriers and align strategies so that local stakeholders can work better together.

Although Hawai'i has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, many existing jobs are lower wage jobs in the Tourism industry. For example, Kaua'i suffers a shortage of job opportunities for high wage, skilled workers. Development of more job opportunities for high wage, skilled workers in rural and urban counties will require collaboration between higher education, legislative members, key industries, and economic development.

I respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of SB 2523. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.