



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

**Date:** 02/04/2020

**Time:** 01:59 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

House Labor & Public Employment

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 1915 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes within the Department of Education a Workforce Readiness Program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1915 to establish a workforce readiness program and would respectfully request an amendment.

The Department is strongly committed to supporting, strengthening, and advancing a consolidated statewide effort by our high schools and the Hawaii Community Schools for Adults to prepare students for the career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certification, and/or college credit to contribute to the vitality of Hawaii's workforce.

The Hawaii Community Schools for Adults, as a recipient of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant, has been working collaboratively with the Workforce Development Council, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Department of Human Service's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, along with employers in the job market and the community colleges. The collective focus of this work has been to design an inter-agency workforce development program for youth and adults with an expressed interest to pursue trades and other employment opportunities.

Lastly, the Department is appreciative of the budgetary appropriation included in this measure and will review the resources necessary to launch a workforce readiness program beginning school year 2020-2021.

To provide for operational flexibility, we would ask that page 2, line 3 be amended to read:  
There is established within the department a workforce readiness program. ~~to be administered  
by the adult and community education program.~~

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1915.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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).

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI  
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

January 31, 2020

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair,  
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair,  
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
Time: 1:59 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

### **Re: H.B. No. 1915 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

#### **I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

HB1915 proposes to amend Chapter 302A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by establishing within the Department of Education (DOE) a workforce readiness program to be administered by the adult community schools program; allowing the DOE to coordinate with DLIR and Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and enter into contracts with industry employers to implement the program; and appropriates funds for the program.

DLIR supports the intent of this measure, provided it does not conflict with the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget requests.

#### **II. CURRENT LAW**

N/A.

#### **III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL**

The measure will help prepare students to enter the workforce. DLIR notes that

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866.

some public high schools have been successful in encouraging their students to pursue higher education or receive occupational training through "academies." Through funding for mini grants provided by the Legislature, DLIR will continue to work with the DOE to help establish and implement workforce readiness programs.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

January 31, 2020

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair,  
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair,  
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair,  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
Time: 1:59 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director  
Hawaii Workforce Development Council

Position: Strong Support

**Re: H.B. No. 1915 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Amends Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding within the Department of Education (DOE) a workforce readiness program to be administered by the adult and community education program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates that assess and document the student's readiness for employment. Funds of \$100,000 has been appropriated for fiscal year 2020 – 2021.

The Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC) strongly supports this measure. WDC partners with DOE's adult education programs to ensure that education, training and support services are provided to individuals with disabilities, low level of literacy, formerly justice involved (ex-offenders), out-of-school/at-risk youth and youths that have aged out of foster care.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact the WDC at (808) 586-8866 (for TTY/TTD Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request. Upon request, this notice is available in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

The Workforce Readiness Diploma program addresses the needs of adult basic education students to acquire needed and in-demand skills to prepare them for the workplace. With more boomers retiring, employers are looking to fill the workforce gap with Millennials and Gen X workers but it may not be enough as they have limited work experience. The wide range of ages and experiences of those who access adult education and services may be ideal to help fill this growing gap.

Programs such as GED or HiSET high school equivalency and workforce readiness diplomas provide a foot in the door, especially for special populations by opening employment opportunities that otherwise would not have existed. The more people who work contribute to Hawaii's thriving workforce and economy.

The WDC administers and implements the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) for Hawaii. WDC is a State board comprised of 41 members, of whom the majority are private business sector members appointed by the Governor. The agency administers WIOA Title 1 funds for adult, dislocated workers and youth programs that are allocated to the Workforce Development Boards on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island. The local boards work through the American Job Centers to deliver direct services in career development, employment and training for job seekers with barriers to employment; help low-wage workers upgrade their skills; and provide resources to support businesses.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**McKINLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS**

634 PENSACOLA STREET, ROOM 216  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

Telephone: (808) 594-0540 FAX: (808) 594-0544

January 28, 2020

**Testimony in Support of HB 1915**

Measure Title: Relating to Schools  
Report Title: DOE; Workforce Readiness Program; Establishment; Appropriation (\$)  
Description: Establishes within the DOE the workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program. Appropriates funds.

McKinley Community School for Adults supports HB 1915 to establish a workforce readiness program that will provide additional employment opportunities for our students.

While our primary mission is to graduate our students with a GED or HISET high school equivalency diploma, there are special populations of students without a high school diploma such as: individuals with disabilities; individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including low-income; individuals preparing for non-traditional fields; single parents, including pregnant women; out of work individuals; English learners; homeless individuals; youth who are in, or have aged out of the foster care system; chronically unemployed or underemployed; or individuals who were recently released from our correctional facilities who are able to enter the workforce without a high school diploma but need to complete a workforce preparation program to meet the minimum requirements for job entry.

In its recent 2017 Hawaii Labor Market Dynamics, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has identified 11 projected entry level job openings that do not require a high school diploma to include transitional jobs such as sales persons, waiters, and waitresses, cashiers, food preparation, maids and housekeepers, cooks, groundskeepers, laborers, and movers. Employers are in dire need of a basic education and job training programs that we the community schools can provide to meet the minimum qualifications for employment entry into these less skilled jobs.

Stakeholder engagement across education, the business industry and communities is essential to the success of the program that can lead to a job for this special population and reduce a dependence on social services. The Hawaii Community School for Adults is strongly committed to preparing our students for Hawaii's workforce and we are prepared to implement our workforce development program. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1915.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen H. Sanpei".

Helen H. Sanpei, Principal



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education and the  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
February 4, 2020 at 1:59 p.m.

By  
Erika Lacro  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 1915 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Woodson and Johanson, Vice Chairs Hashem, Quinlan, and Eli, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1915. This measure would establish within the Department of Education a Workforce Readiness Program. The program would provide opportunities for students to earn associates degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates. The Department of Education would designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program.

Under the proposed program, the University of Hawai'i (UH) would partner with the Department of Education to provide education and training. The UH Community Colleges offers a range of degree programs and certificates to meet the workforce needs of the state and to prepare students for careers, whether the next step is immediate employment or to continue education at a baccalaureate campus.

UH Community Colleges also partners with industry and employers to offer short and long term training which may be also offered as continuing education (not leading to degrees). These training programs address industry needs and include apprenticeship programs including Boilermakers, Bricklayer-Masons, Carpenters, HVAC, Plumbers, and Painters. Apprenticeship programs are also available in non-trade disciplines including Healthcare, Hospitality, Culinary, and Information Technology.

This legislation supports the strategic direction for UH Community Colleges' partnerships with Department of Education high schools, which is to offer education and training within career pathways to provide high school students with momentum toward a degree or certificate.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1915, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 1, 2020

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice-Chair  
Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** H.B. No. 1915 – RELATING TO EDUCATION  
**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2020  
**Time:** 1:59 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 309

**Bill Description:** Establishes within the Department of Education a Workforce Readiness Program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program. Appropriates funds.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Comments**

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on H.B. 1915.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

**If this measure is enacted, we respectfully request that early childhood education is included among the options available to students through the workforce readiness program. Early childhood education is one of the industries and fields in Hawaii that are sorely lacking a pool of qualified workforce candidates.**

It is precisely during the earliest years before brain development is largely complete (before kindergarten), and particularly for those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need the best educators. We do not want to promote inequity.

**As we work to increase access to qualified early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must focus on addressing the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators** (i.e., those with coursework and background in early childhood, and supported with ongoing professional development, who research shows are most effective). Even as the EOEL Public Pre-K Program stands now with just over 40 classrooms across the state, we have difficulty recruiting and turnover is high. This can be attributed in part to the fact that over half of the teaching staff in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program have not completed coursework in early childhood education and assumptions about pre-K teaching that are inconsistent with the knowledge and competencies required of teaching staff in settings for preschool-aged children.

Unqualified teaching staff do not have the requisite understanding to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, what may result are increased instances of stress-induced behavior problems, inappropriate referrals to special education, and suspensions or expulsions.

Given the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators in the state, we believe a workforce readiness program such as that proposed in this bill would be mutually beneficial for both the community and our students who are interested in entering the field of early childhood education. Students would work toward a Child Development Associate certificate; this would allow them to be an educational assistant in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program, for example.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 8:19:28 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark T. Nakamura	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Mark T. Nakamura and I am one of the Vice Principals for the McKinley Community School for Adults (MCSA). I am providing written testimony today to express my support for HB 1915 to establish a workforce readiness program that will provide additional employment opportunities for our students.

The primary mission of the MCSA is to support students in their pursuit and eventual attainment of a GED or HISET high school equivalency diploma. However, there are individuals in Hawaii who are from disadvantaged families, who are not native speakers of English, who are unemployed and individuals who are homeless who may not have had the means to earn a high school diploma or equivalency, but need to complete a workforce preparation program that would give them the requisite skills needed to enter the workforce. Consequently, the establishment of a workforce readiness program is imperative to give people the opportunity to receive the education necessary to develop workforce readiness skills so that they can not only be a contributing member of society as a member of the workforce, but to also instill within these individuals a means to be motivated to improve their lives through education. Individuals who successfully complete a workforce readiness program can then serve as an inspiration to others for a better life, or even as a means to stretch and break out of their comfort zone to push themselves further.

Education is the means of opportunity as education can lead to someone learning a trade, gaining entry level work skills, or higher level job opportunities and the workforce readiness program can be means to accomplish those goals. Hawaii is a unique land with a diversity of people from different ethnic groups and socio-economic backgrounds who are all doing their best to make a living, provide for themselves, and for their families. However, sometimes despite their best intentions, individuals may not have the educational background and work skills to make a living and a workforce readiness program would give such individuals hope that there is still that opportunity if they so choose to take it, through the learning of workforce readiness skills.

I believe that education is a means to a better quality of life. Education exercises one's mind and instills an appreciation of learning. Although education is not the magic bullet to solve all of our challenges within our society, the establishment of a workforce readiness program is the planting of a seed of opportunity that can grow and bring

emotional, personal, financial, and work related success and stability to individuals in Hawaii for this current generation while serving as a bridge of sustainability and inspiration for future generations. Education is a means to bridge the gap between those who have and those who do not have as much and an establishing of a workforce readiness program can be the means through which negative cycles are broken by giving individuals the opportunity to improve themselves.

Support from stakeholders not only in education, but in the areas of business and in the community is essential to supporting this program which can help to reduce dependence on social services. The MCSA is committed to servicing our students and giving them a foundation of skills to properly service our community through employment which can also give them a means to a better quality of life. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony with you today in support of HB 1915.

Sincerely,

Mark Nakamura, Vice Principal.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:40:21 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pat Anbe	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

## Comments:

I am in support of House Bill 1915 and the positive impact it will have on the Hawaii Adult Schools and the communities we serve. Our learners come to us in hopes of bettering their lives and the lives of their families. The education we provide serves the purpose of advancing individuals in literacy, life and career skills.

Many of our students do not come with employability and professional skills and need assistance in becoming qualified employees. As the adult schools are a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), we are required to help transition our learners from school to work. HB 1915 will help tremendously in allowing us to carry out our mission of advancing adult learners to the workforce by providing a workforce development credential that our students can earn.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:09:12 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Callahan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Based on the knowledge I acquired working in K-12 education over the past 10 years, I strongly support HB 1915. Currently, "Workforce Readiness" seems to be focused primarily on the college bound students, i.e. those that have a career path in mind and the means to achieve it.

Students who struggle academically or have barriers to education often leave school without a high school credential or adequate job skills. HB 1915 puts a support in place for these students while simultaneously benefiting local employers/industry.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:08:27 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB 1915. Establishing a workforce readiness program through partnerships and collaborative efforts with the department of education (high schools and community schools), public agencies and the private sector would provide students with greater opportunities to gain basic academic and employability skills needed to meet the minimum qualifications for employment. The Workforce Development Diploma credential would afford students without a high school diploma or its equivalent to gain the necessary skills for employment. Gainful employment would allow these individuals to provide for themselves and their families, giving them a sense of purpose, confidence, independence, and the ability to be productive members and positive contributors to the community that we live in.

Thank you for your consideration in support of HB 1915.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 7:56:18 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ROBERTA TANAKA	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I'm in support of HB 1915 Relating to Education. There are individuals without a high school diploma who would like to be a positive contributor to our society but because of disabilities, economically disadvantaged families, single parents, English learners, homeless individuals, youths who are in, or have aged out of the foster care system, or individuals who were recently released from our correctional facilities who are able to enter the workforce without a high school diploma but need to complete a workforce program to meet the minimum requirements for job entry. With this bill they will have assistance to be successful.



**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 8:00:44 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

More opportunities for students to get ahead or jump start on also learning what they want to do in life is such a positive, not only for the students but also for the community.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 12:45:53 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Ledgerwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I work with student who greatly benefit from workplace readiness preparation programs.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 1:19:07 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert L Ginlack	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

The ideal society would like to see all students obtain a high school or college degree. Many students have different preferences. The Workforce Readiness Preparation Program is able to provide educational opportunities across the spectrum regardless of the individual academic or chosen career. The union and partnering of the Adult Community Schools, high schools, community colleges, employers and the Workforce development council can greatly enhance the possibilities of the employees earning the credential/certificate needed or required..

There is definitely a need for this program or something comparable. Thanks for your attention you give to HB1915.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 4:13:26 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 9:48:23 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill because we need this kind of programs to help the older kids here in Waianae find a job by getting them ready for work.

# Testimony for HB1915 from the 2020 Secondary Student Conference

*\*All testimony directly copied and taken from their submissions at the Conference on January 25, 2020\**

## **Daniel Amodo - Gr. 11 - Kapolei High School - Support**

I am Daniel Amodo and I firmly believe House Bill 1915 should be passed. This is due to Workforce programs will be able to help students after college. In the U.S. one in three young adults go to work, who probably don't even have college degrees (Brookings.edu) The reason I say this, if we want to prepare students for the real world, we need to secure programs that will do so.

## **Hunter Harris - Gr. 11 - Kapolei High School - Support**

I chose this bill to do a testimony about due to the creativity, passion, statistics and innovation of the bill. This bill displayed a new but realistic way to make our schooling experience cater to the students needs to grow in their career interests. This bill will further more allow students to be more prepared for their both post high school education and long term careers the students will be in after their education is complete.

## **Jeryll Tom Saupan - Gr. 8 - King David Kalakaua Middle School - Support**

I am Jeryll Tom Nero Saupan from King David Kalākaua Middle School and i'm supporting bill HB 1915. I am supporting this bill because I feel like high school should teach students more skill about their careers that will help them in the future. This bill will also allow students to see what their future career holds for them and it will let them know if this is a career that they want to be doing in the future. With that, it will help students choose the type of career they plan to do in the future. Again, I am Jeryll Tom Nero Saupan from King David Kalākaua Middle School supporting the bill HB1915 :)

## **Kiane Rode - Gr. 11 - Kealakehe High School - Support**

Aloha, my name is Kiane Rode from the big island district. I want to advocate for the workforce program. As a junior in high school I would have loved to have had help with getting dual credits and possibly getting a 2 year degree from that.

## **Janice Galicinao - Gr. 8 - King David Kalakaua Middle School - Support**

I, Janice Galicinao, a delegate of this years' SSC, supports bill HB1915. The reasons why I support this bill is because with this bill, it will allow more students the opportunity to explore and have more knowledge about their future careers. Having these programs will encourage students to choose the right career choice for themselves. Once again, I am Janice Galicinao, from Kalākaua Middle School, and I support bill HB1915.

### **Kendall Larson - Gr. 11 - Kalaheo High School - Support**

When I first joined my first readiness program I was quiet and I often avoided public speaking. Wanting to have an impact on the world in my future I realized that speaking to others is an important skill and it was one I never thought I could achieve. Here i am today having completed that program and i am speaking to all of you. Programs like the one presented in HB 1915 are the reason I am able to stand in front of you today and we need these programs to help inspire others to be the voice not the echo.

### **Jenna Balmilero - Gr. 11 - Roosevelt High School - Support**

My name is Jenna Balmilero and I am a junior at Roosevelt High School. I am supportive of a Workforce Readiness Program that provides opportunities for our youth to learn about jobs post-High school.

Personally, I am a student who has the intentions of going off to college, however, college is not in the interest of all students or their current situation does not allow them to have college as an option.

Many students do have to enter the workforce at a lower entry level after high school but through these Workforce Readiness Programs, it allows student to enter the world with a higher entry level position at a company or job. Introducing these Workforce Readiness Programs to Hawaii's curriculum, our students are given a chance to have a bright future and to be successful in their career with or without college.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jenna Balmilero

### **Lisa Miyazaki - Gr. 10 - Waiakea High School - Support**

I am a student at Waiakea High School and I believe that Workforce Readiness Programs should be required at all schools. Our school is split into academies, where students take courses that match their career interests. Personally, I have always dreamed about becoming a healthcare provider, and I that the academies have really put me a step ahead and prepared for my future. I believe that all students should be prepared to work so therefore, I wholeheartedly believe that Workforce Readiness Programs should be offered at all schools.

### **Adam Alamodin - Gr. 12 - Aiea High School - Support**

Hello! My name is Adam Alamodin and I am a senior from Aiea High School. I am in support of House Bill 1915, involving the creation of the Work Readiness Program in the Hawaii State Department of Education. Upon researching and understanding this bill, it can be seen that the popular values of better preparation, flexibility, and feasibility, are upheld. Right now, I have heard many students from various schools question the importance of what they learn in school. In fact, a Khauffman Foundation report in Sept. 2019 found that 59% of adults who graduated from high school could not connect what they learned in high school with their careers. Through the passage of this bill, various programs such as workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship programs, early college and more, will be made more available to schools across Hawaii. This enables students to gain important workforce skills, life skills, and more, regardless of their career pathway and income level. In addition to better preparation and flexibility for life after high school, the funding for this bill as of now will require \$100,000, which will come from the General Revenues, or the General Excise

Tax of the State of Hawaii. According to the 2019 4th Quarter Report from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Hawaii General Revenues are currently at \$922.5 million, so there is quite a bit of room for more funding if necessary.

Even former American basketball player John Wooden once said, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." In today's advancing society, we have to prevent that preparation to fail through creating this more set and stone program with supporting HB 1915.

### **Maya Abarca - Gr. 12 - James Campbell High School - Support**

I am aware that it is a goal of the DOE to redefine the definition of student achievement and to encourage all types of student achievement. The traditional path of student achievement is to do good in school curriculum, be involved in school, get into a good university, and get a good career. As time progresses, not everyone needs to follow this path to achieve their own definitions of success. But WHAT is school going to provide to those who don't want to attend post-secondary education? How can we assure their post high school success? We can assure their success through the DOE workforce readiness program. This bill allows students to forge their own path of success, leaving high school as a competitive applicant of the workforce while also being able to develop skills that are applicable to a multitude of careers. At my school (James Campbell High School), they offer programs that allow you to get your associates degree for teaching, certificates in language proficiency, and internships for all of our different school academies. I see how students in my school utilize these programs and how there is definitely student interest in these programs. I know that if bill HB1915 is approved, students will be able to have more valuable experiences that will aid them in decisions concerning their futures.

### **Shaina Marie Agonoy-Pascua - Gr. 12 - James Campbell High School - Support**

Helps students to earn the chance to prepare themselves to work hard and persevere to possible career they look up to. also it's easier or could be a great alternative to earn much more college credits than taking AP/Early college classes. Have those courses is also an inexpensive program so it doesn't affect those who worry that they wouldn't pay to attend the program.

### **Kevin Davis - Gr. 11 - Roosevelt High School - Support**

Hi my name is Kevin Davis from Roosevelt High School on Oahu Island. I am on the Roosevelt High School ASB Council. I agree with this bill because it opens doors too many opportunities for students to earn an early certificate saying they are certified in a career field. These programs give the kids the skills needed to keep a job in the certain career field. Without these type of programs the youth won't have the skills to be able to hold a steady career/job. I think that this bill will ensure that kids out of high school will have a job if they don't go to college. I am very supportive of this bill.



# SSC 2020 Testimony Submission Form (Overview)

Use this form to draft your testimony for this year's priority bills. The testimony submitted via the form will be turned over to the legislators when the bill is called to hearing. Please be sure to double check your spelling and grammar, as submissions will not be edited when turned over to legislators - your work will be submitted as entered. \*Electronic FORM is available at - <http://bit.ly/SSC2020Testimony>

First and Last Name: Shelby Baguio

School: Dole Middle School Grade Level: 8

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your SSC Committee:  Co-Curricular Concerns or  Student Achievement or  School Environment

\*\*\*\*\*  
Bill Number: HB 1915 Bill Title: Relating to Education

Circle your Position Statement:  Support or  Opposition or  Providing a Comment

**YOUR Testimony:** State who you are, your position, and reasons why you feel this way. Include facts, figures, experiences, or personal narratives to support your position. Your closing statement should include any summary remarks and re-state your position. Use the back of this sheet if needed.

My name is Shelby Baguio my position is being a class representative. I feel that this should be a/one of the one's that keep going because it's great if you learn about your career early to get the feeling of it. So to conclude this I feel it should be one of the bills that keep going because it's great to start your career early.

# SSC 2020 Testimony Submission Form

Use this form to draft your testimony for this year's priority bills. The testimony submitted via the form will be turned over to the legislators when the bill is called to hearing. Please be sure to double check your spelling and grammar, as submissions will not be edited when turned over to legislators - your work will be submitted as entered. \*Electronic FORM is available at - <http://bit.ly/SSC2020Testimony>

First and Last Name: Camille Bonilla

School: Dole Middle school Grade Level: 8

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your SSC Committee: **Co-Curricular Concerns** or **Student Achievement** or **School Environment**

\*\*\*\*\*

Bill Number: HB 1915 Bill Title: ~~Relating~~ Relating to Education

Circle your Position Statement: **Support** or **Opposition** or **Providing a Comment**

**YOUR Testimony:** State who you are, your position, and reasons why you feel this way. Include facts, figures, experiences, or personal narratives to support your position. Your closing statement should include any summary remarks and re-state your position. Use the back of this sheet if needed.

My name is Camille Bonilla, a student of Dole Middle School. I support this because a lot of people aren't good at ~~some~~ certain subjects but really good at something ~~else~~ else. For example, they could be horriable at science ~~by~~ reading but really good at building. It's just talking about creating different ways students can graduate. ~~the~~

# SSC 2020 Testimony Submission Form

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First and Last Name: Isabel Yasay

School: Dole middle school Grade Level: 8

Email Address: isabelbear06@gmail.com

Circle your SSC Committee: Co-Curricular Concerns or Student Achievement or School Environment

\*\*\*\*\*  
Bill Number: HB 1915 Bill Title: Realating to Education

Circle your Position Statement: Support or Opposition or Providing a Comment

**YOUR Testimony:** State who you are, your position, and reasons why you feel this way. Include facts, figures, experiences, or personal narratives to support your position. Your closing statement should include any summary remarks and re-state your position. Use the back of this sheet if needed.

My name is Isabel Yasay, an eighth grader at Dole middle school and I ~~feel~~ am with this Bill because it helps teachers establish the readiness program.

# SSC 2020 Testimony Submission Form

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First and Last Name: LEILA AKAZAWA

School: AIEA HIGH SCHOOL Grade Level: 11

Email Address: LEILA.WONG01@GMAIL.COM

Circle your SSC Committee: Co-Curricular Concerns or Student Achievement or School Environment

\*\*\*\*\*  
Bill Number: HB1916 Bill Title: DOE: Workforce Readiness Program: Establishment: Appropriation

Circle your Position Statement: Support or Opposition or Providing a Comment

**YOUR Testimony:** State who you are, your position, and reasons why you feel this way. Include facts, figures, experiences, or personal narratives to support your position. Your closing statement should include any summary remarks and re-state your position. Use the back of this sheet if needed.

My name is Leila Akazawa, and I am currently a Junior enrolled at Aiea High School. I am in support of this bill because I think its efforts would dramatically benefit students like me. This bill would provide amazing opportunities to gain workforce readiness skills and certifications, which would bolster many students' careers.

Take for example, I am currently taking a business CTE class, which has played an essential role in my plans for the future. I've been privileged with many entrepreneurial opportunities, which I feel many other students in my state would love to experience as well.

All in all, this bill would be a ~~great~~ catalyst for the DOE and would serve as a major gateway towards the greater cultivation of our youth's upbringing. This bill will ultimately show the greatest support for students as well.

# SSC 2020 Testimony Submission Form

Use this form to draft your testimony for this year's priority bills. The testimony submitted via the form will be turned over to the legislators when the bill is called to hearing. Please be sure to double check your spelling and grammar, as submissions will not be edited when turned over to legislators - your work will be submitted as entered. \*Electronic FORM is available at - <http://bit.ly/SSC2020Testimony>

First and Last Name: Kade Jacang

School: Aiea High School Grade Level: 11

Email Address: s4mur4is4y3ri3y4su@gmail.com

Circle your SSC Committee: **Co-Curricular Concerns** or **Student Achievement** or **School Environment**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Bill Number: HB1915 Bill Title: DOE; Workforce Rediness Program; Establishment; Appropriation (\$)

Circle your Position Statement: **Support** or **Opposition** or **Providing a Comment**

**YOUR Testimony:** State who you are, your position, and reasons why you feel this way. Include facts, figures, experiences, or personal narratives to support your position. Your closing statement should include any summary remarks and re-state your position. Use the back of this sheet if needed.

The Workforce Rediness Program ensures that students have the necessary information to decide what they want to do after high school through programs relating to associate degrees (i.e. early college classes or pathways), pre-apprenticeship, and workforce development diploma. The DOE aims to create a program that allows schools across the state to implement the Workforce Rediness Program into their curriculum.

The program itself is very beneficial to our high school students, especially to those coming from low-income families. In 2013, of all graduates who're from low-income households, 74% that have taken the early college program have moved on to 2 year colleges compared to the 42% that didn't. Not only that, but many of the programs offer financial aid or are free, giving a wide demographic of students the opportunity to take advantage of getting an associate degree.

Even if you don't go to college, going into the workforce with an associate's degree or an apprenticeship certificate offers graduates a competitive advantage. The PAET, which was conducted by the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, offers qualifications for entry-level jobs in the construction workforce, giving them an overview of many of the construction industry trades.

In summary, the Workforce Rediness Program is very beneficial to high school students, as it greatly helps students of low-income households and offers graduates a competitive advantage in the workforce through associate's degrees and apprenticeship certificates.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:37:45 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:03:04 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:43:23 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacquelyn	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

My students work hard to prepare for the GED, but some of them do not meet the requirements because of difficult personal lives which distract from their ability to learn the skills, and/or they come from a severely deficient educational system and would need several years to fill in significant education gaps before attempting the GED. In these cases, a Workforce Readiness Certificate would be highly beneficial to them. The program would prepare them to, at the very least, have the necessary skills to apply for work, pass an interview, understand job requirements and standard job expectations and behaviors. Our students come from all over the world and are often blind-sighted by the "newness" of just about everything here. This program could provide them the appropriate stepping stones in a relatively short period of time, to show prospective employers that they are prepared to work and earn an income. With a certificate of completion and a letter of recommendation from their teacher they would be prepared to move forward with their future in productive and personally rewarding ways.



02 February 2020

To: Chairperson Justin Woodson  
Vice Chairperson Mark J. Hashem  
Vice Chairperson Sean Quinlan  
Members of the Lower & Higher Education Committee

Chairperson Aaron Ling Johanson  
Vice Chairperson Stacelynn K.M. Eli  
Members of the Labor & Public Employment Committee

From: Schayden Gorai

Subject: Opposition of HB 1915, Relating to Education

Aloha, my name is Schayden Gorai and I am a Senior at Kalāheo High School and I firmly oppose HB 1915. The bill would establish within the Department of Education a Workforce Readiness Program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program. Appropriates funds.

My biggest issue with this bill would be the funding aspect of the bill. Hawaii has a horrible Education System that doesn't appeal to any new or incoming teachers. Hawaii has a teacher shortage that we simply cannot seem to solve, Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the Nation meaning wages for teachers need to increase based on the economy. Fully fund our Education System and fully fund a livable wage for our Teachers.

We should support our students in striving for the best and going above and beyond in life. Giving us students the option to go directly into the work field and surpass a four-year college is not appropriate.

This program would speed up the Educational process for the Degree to properly suite the High School level time frame. This also gives more things for Students to be worried and concerned about on top of their regularly scheduled schedule.

Please oppose HB 1915. Thank you for your time

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:29:49 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jamie Lemon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**February 3, 2020**

**To: Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair**

**Stacelyn K.M Eli, Vice Chair**

**Members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee**

**Justin H. Woodson, Chair**

**Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair**

**Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair**

**Members of the Lower and Higher Education Committee**

**From: Jamie Lemon**

**Subject: Support of House Bill 1915, Relating to Education**

**Hello, my name is Jamie Lemon and I am currently a Junior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly believe in HB 1915 and I would like to ask for your support. I ask you to vote in favor of this bill because it would help to prepare kids for their future by giving them an opportunity to start working immediately after high**

**school. In addition it provides an alternate pathway to students who don't want to go to a four year college.**

**Windward Community College offers Associate Degrees in liberal arts, hawaiian studies, natural science, and veterinary technology. By implementing the program this bill proposes, it gives students on opportunity to earn these degrees while still in high school. For example, if a student wanted to go into an engineering career they could earn their associate degree in natural science with an engineering concentration. This would then allow them to jump straight into an engineering job after they graduate high school without having to spend additional time and money in college.**

**Passing this bill would also provide students who don't want to go to a four year college with an additional route and more options. Currently, most high schools focus on preparing students to enter into college after completing high school, but that's not what all students want to do. According to Forbes, more than 48% of first-time, full-time students who started at a four-year college six years earlier had not yet earned a degree. Many students feel pressured into going to college but then find it's not right for them and drop out. This bill gives those students more options not involving college so that they don't feel that pressure.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope that you will support House Bill 1915.**

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:33:34 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karina Maciel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**February 3, 2020**

**To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair**

**Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair**

**Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment**

**Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair**

**Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair**

**Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair**

**Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education**

**From: Karina Maciel**

**Subject: Support of House Bill 1915, Relating to Education**

**Aloha! My name is Karina Maciel, and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly believe in HB 1915 and would like to ask for your support. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill because our schools need more programs that will give students more opportunities to explore their career interests and prepare for their future.**

**A study done by the Boys and Girls Club of America has shown that more than 75% of youth express concerns about whether they have the skills necessary to secure a job. The same study states that there are 7.5 million unfilled jobs in America today. Time has shown that more and more schools need programs that allow their students to properly prepare for a future in the workforce, particularly for students who do not plan to follow the traditional four year college plan. This is especially true in Hawai'i, where only 55% of high school graduates choose to enroll in a four year college after high school. The rest opt to attend a two-year college, or they go straight into the workforce. If this bill passed, it would allow students in the program to earn an Associate's Degree and be immediately prepared to enter the workforce after they graduate high school. This provides students with more pathways to follow outside of the traditional four year college route. It also levels the playing field for all students in Hawai'i by providing opportunities that cater specifically to students who do not plan on entering a four year college.**

**If HB 1915 is passed, the opportunities for all of Hawaii's students are sure to increase. Please help this bill pass and take action to benefit the students of Hawai'i. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Karina Maciel**

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:34:38 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalena Castillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Monday, February 3, 2020**

**To: Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair**

**Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair**

**Members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee**

**Justin H. Woodson, Chair**

**Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair**

**Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair**

**Members of the Lower and Higher Education Committee**

**From: Kalena Castillo**

**Subject: Support of House Bill 1915,**

**Aloha! My name is Kalena Castillo, and I am currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly believe in HB 1915, and I would like to ask for your support. I ask for your support in this bill because it would provide students with the opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree, and it would offer more expansive career pathways for all schools.**

**If this bill is passed, students will be able to earn their Associate's Degree while still in high school. Schools could partner up with Windward Community College in Kaneohe, and it would take 12 credits to complete a course. Winward offers courses like Associate in Arts in Hawaiian Studies, Associate in Arts and Liberal Arts, Associate in Science in Natural Science, and many more. Students could get done with college early and be presented with more opportunities in their job lives.**

**Passing this bill could also mean that students could explore more specific career pathways such as Health Sciences and Art Concentration. The more money that is provided to schools, the more pathways the DOE could develop and offer to students. These workplace readiness pathways will get students prepared for work and life after school, showing them a little more to how the real world works.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope you will support Senate Bill HB 1915.**

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:55:57 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lance Jyo	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1915. As a Mandatory Partner under WIOA, Adult Education is tasked to provide educational support to all individuals pursuing post secondary programs and seeking/supporting employment. Students enrolling in High School Equivalency Prep programs (GED/HISET) come to us as early as 16 years old. The majority have not been successfully in the traditional school setting, and turn to Adult Education as an alternative. Work readiness programs provide students with the skills necessary to secure and retain employment. Thus building a stronger workforce. One that contributes to easing the burden on society and government for support.



**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:15:19 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad H Okinaka	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

High school students and adult education students would benefit from a work readiness preparation program. A close collaboration

between educators and industry employers would ensure that

students develop the skills and credentials needed to make them highly employable.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:18:30 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1915. Our State of Hawaii Department of Education Adult Education programs play an integral role in our communities. Not only do the Adult Education programs provide opportunities for students to earn a high school equivalency, but the adult community schools also help to prepare individuals for the workforce. A workforce readiness program and credential can help students to find a path to employment. This path would include development and education that is aligned with industry needs and individual student goals. Furthermore, a workforce readiness program will help to ensure that individuals receive industry-based skills and necessary credentials for employment.

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:47:36 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:04:14 PM  
Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Matsuo	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of HB 1915. Providing opportunities for Adult Education students to earn diplomas, credentials and to further their abilities will help learners to advance in the workforce through specific workforce training and classes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Matsuo



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education and the  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 1:59 P.M.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

**LATE**

**RE: HB 1915, RELATING TO EDUCATION.**

Chair Woodson, Chair Johanson, Vice Chairs Hashem, Quinlan and Eli, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1915 which establishes within the Department of Education a Workforce Readiness Program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. The bill also requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

In alignment with the Department of Education (DOE) and State Office of Career and Technical Education's efforts to bridge the gap between school and employment, the Chamber has partnered with the University of Hawaii ("UH"), Workforce Development Council ("WDC"), Hawaii P-20 Council and the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation (Castle) to strengthen college and career pathways. The Chamber is currently serving as an intermediary for Pearl City High School and Waipahu High School to increase access to Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities, which include attainment of associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates

The Lumina Foundation, a leader in increasing post-secondary opportunities, conducted an "Education Consumer Survey" focused on certifications. Results published in a Forbes Magazine article showed that adults with a short-term certificate or industry-based certification were more likely to be employed (85%) than adults without such credentials (78%). Results also showed that adults holding certificates reported their median annual income to be \$45,000, compared to \$30,000 for adults without any certificates. Among the non-degreed adults with a certificate or certification, two-thirds were inclined to recommend the educational path they had followed to others, compared to less than half of the non-degreed adults without such



# Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

credentials. Among certificate/certification holders, 60% believed their educational experiences made them more marketable to potential employers, compared to 44% of those who had not earned certificates or certifications.

Overall, this legislation is an important step to providing career paths for good paying jobs for employees, while simultaneously helping to fill employment and skills gaps that financially burden business and the economy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-1915**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:29:42 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 1:59:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: