



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
June 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

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

HB 1994 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports the intent of HB 1994 HD1, which incorporates two very promising initiatives.

The first initiative facilitates collaboration in K-12 STEM education by bringing together major stakeholders to form a network-improvement community task force to develop K-12 STEM teacher education.

The second initiative is to appropriate funds to subsidize travel expenses and/or tuition that gives Maui County students (18-20) opportunities to study abroad experiences.

1. The overall benefit of study abroad is that it maximizes the global learning of each partnering institutions by providing students with top quality global education and better potential in securing a good job in the future.
2. This academic year, University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) successfully supported 7 (seven) students to study in Japan and Okinawa. The success has created increased interest to students wishing to study abroad.
3. The major challenge for most students is cost.
4. It also stimulates UH Maui College's enrollment management target for international students.

We support the intent of this Bill on the condition that any requested positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for opportunity to testify on HB 1994 HD1.



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

**Date:** 06/23/2020  
**Time:** 03:00 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Higher Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 1994, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes, and appropriates funds for, a network improvement community task force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teacher education degree for the University of Hawaii. Appropriates funds for the office of international and regional partnerships of the University of Hawaii Maui college for study abroad programs. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1994, HD1, to develop the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher pipeline to address the shortage of qualified STEM teachers in Hawaii, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education-approved budget.

The Department notes that the work of the proposed task force in Part I overlaps with the charge of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) under HRS 304A-1202. The Department recommends that this work be incorporated under the TECC with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of task force members.

As to Part II of this measure, the Department respectfully defers to the University of Hawaii System.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1994, HD1.

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).

**HB-1994-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/21/2020 11:53:57 PM

Testimony for HRE on 6/23/2020 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments: