



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

**Date:** 01/30/2020

**Time:** 02:20 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2092 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes within the DOE the workforce readiness program within the adult community schools program. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2092 to establish a workforce readiness program and respectfully provides comments.

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.

The Department is strongly committed to supporting, strengthening, and advancing a consolidated statewide effort by the 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.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2092.

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  
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January 30, 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

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020  
Time: 2:20 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

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

**Re: H.B. No. 2092 RELATING TO SCHOOLS**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

HB2092 proposes to amend Chapter 302A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by establishing within the Department of Education (DOE) a workforce readiness program within the adult community schools program; allowing the DOE to enter into contracts with the DLIR, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and 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 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.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 6:56:54 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allicyn Tasaka	Workforce Development Council	Support	No

Comments:



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 2092**

**Measure Title:** Relating to Schools  
**Report Title:** Workforce Readiness Program; Adult Community Schools; Public Schools; DOE; DLIR; Appropriation  
**Description:** Establishes within the DOE the workforce readiness program with the adult community schools program. Appropriates funds.

McKinley Community School for Adults supports HB 2092 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 2092.

Sincerely,

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

Helen H. Sanpei, Principal

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 6:33:12 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 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 2092. 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-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 5:38:37 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Based on the knowledge I acquired working in K-12 education over the past 10 years, I strongly support HB 2092. 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 2092 puts a support in place for these students while simultaneously benefiting local employers/industry.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:19:04 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 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 2092. 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 instill within these individuals a means to be motivated to improve their lives through education. 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. 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.

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, to improve their work 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 to individuals in Hawaii for this current generation while serving as an 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.





**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 11:42:26 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 1:09:43 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 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 2092 and the positive impact it will have on the Hawaii Adult Schools and the communities they 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. HB 2092 will help tremendously in allowing us to carry out our mission of advancing adult learners.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:39:00 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Sanpei	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Yes

Comments:

McKinley Community School for Adults supports HB 2092 to establish a workforce readiness program that will provide additional employment training opportunities for our students.

In addition to supporting our students at adult education, we are also piloting a program with special needs students who are still attending high school. These students are on a certificate track, meaning that they won't earn their high school diploma. These students could benefit from a workforce training program as independent living and work are their primary goals for post high school. We believe that supporting the high schools while the students are still enrolled and receiving an individualized education plan gives them their best opportunities for post high school success.

McKinley Community School for Adults is committed to supporting our students to become successful in their college and career goals. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2092.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sanpei

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:51:49 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Miyao	Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee,

I support HB0292. One of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements for the State of Hawaii's Department of Education Adult and Community Education program is the establishment of Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs which includes workforce readiness. Funds are needed to develop and offer statewide IET services for our adults who lack basic skills.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:21:02 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

This workforce readiness program benefits so many people entering the workforce who for whatever reason could not obtain a high school diploma. Through this program, students are provided with the support they need for academic success as well as gain access to job training programs. There is definitely a need for this program in our state.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:43:18 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kellsie Tokita	McKinley Community School	Support	No

Comments:

McKinley Community School for Adults supports HB 2092 to establish a workforce readiness program that will provide additional employment training opportunities for our students.

We are currently working on providing (IET) Integrated Education Training for our (ELA) English Language Acquisition students. A workforce readiness program will be combined with our higher level ELA students to provide them with job readiness skills and to support their career goals. This student population will also be exposed to the cultural aspects and expectations of jobs in the United States. Integrating the English Language and Civics Education will equip them with the tools necessary to become contributing members to our society.

McKinley Community School for Adults is committed to supporting our students to become successful in their college and career goals. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2092.

Sincerely,

Kellsie Tokita

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:31:32 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm in support of HB 2092 to establish a workforce readiness program that will provide additional employment opportunities for our students.

There are individuals who would like to become a positive contributor to our society but must overcome challenges (economically disadvantaged, single parents, English learners, homelessness, youths who are in, or have aged out of foster care system, recently released from a correctional facility, etc.) and are unable 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. This bill will offer the needed support for these individuals.



**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:34:43 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a learning coordinator for a GED program, I see many students who can benefit from a Workforce development certificate in order to make gainful employment. This can be an excellent motivation for those who have not been successful in traditional educational channels. Appropriating funding is critical to provide these services. Please vote in favor of this bill

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:55:19 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roseanne Propato	HI DPS-Corrections Education	Support	No

Comments:

Corrections Education is key in the rehabilitation of inmates and in reducing recidivism. Ultimately, it keeps the public safer and provides opportunity that this population would not have otherwise. There is a great need for support of Academic, Career and Technical Education in order to develop the workforce skills needed in these individuals. Please support HB 2092.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 4:07:15 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I live in Waianae and see so many of our young people without high school diplomas and unemployed. I would like to see passage of this Bill to help the young adults in our community prepare for and get a job so that they can survive.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 7:00:54 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of the Workforce readiness program within the adult community schools. I see the need and the value for a program like this.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:50:40 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am aware that you are very busy and bombared with many requests. I strongly support the **Workforce readiness program**, it gives the students many options to prepare and compete in **the** workforce. Havng worked as a school administrator for twenty-three years, I know that this program will benefit the many students who has given up on regular high school but now have an opportunityl to earn a degree/certificate which educate them for many additional jobs.

**THANKS FOR TIME AND CONSIDERATION!!**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:03:00 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a part time adult education teacher and I support HB2092 to establish the Workforce Readiness program and funding. Students learn in different ways and it is imperative that the State of Hawaii, Department of Education, have a Workforce Readiness program for students to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for the work place and to meet their goals and objectives. I have taught students in the past that I know will benefit from a Workforce Readiness program and they deserve to have this opportunity.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:23:55 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

This program will not only benefit the at-risk and ell students but all students by preparing them for the workforce.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:29:40 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a former high school teacher, I am in support of this bill. Students all learn at different rates and often are not prepared for the world of work. The passage of this bill and monetary support will help more non-traditional students be productive citizens.



**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 6:31:13 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 2092 because it will help those people who need a job but also need training to prepare them.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:10:51 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

What a great program alternative for students to work towards their goals and better themselves. Opportunities and having choices is always a positive thing.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:45:57 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 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 2092. 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-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:02:11 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:19:08 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am support of HB2092 to establish a workforce readiness program that will provided additional employment opportunities for our adult learners. I desire to see that every opportunity is made available to have students prepared for the workforce that will provide them means to support themselves and not rely on the government of Hawaii. The adult education program can provide these opportunities and should be supported in their efforts to provide employment opportunities for students.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:53:42 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am the vice principal of the Waipahu Community School for Adults, Windward campus in Kailua. Everyday I see individuals come in to learn about fresh starts and improving their lives. We provide a new beginning for people who have faced challenges but remain resilient and solution based. This bill will support our efforts.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:49:08 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

While the majority of legislative bills are enacted to regulate and/or control existing conditions, HB 2092 is one of the few opportunities to create a lifelong legislative legacy. The results of this bill will allow the Hawaii DOE, Community Schools for Adults and DLIR to establish a Workforce Readiness Program. This will provide necessary training for individuals to earn a Workforce Readiness Diploma and enter the workforce, eliminating their need for public subsistance. It is a great investment that will pay for itself as more unemployed individuals enter the workforce. As such, I fully support and recommend the passing of HB 2092. Mahalo!

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:26:56 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my support of HB 2092. It will be a great opportunity for students to prepare for work. From what I know of the Adult Schools, they have many good programs to help those who had difficulty with regular high school.



**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:37:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support Adult education 100%. It provides young men who did not finish high school a second chance. It provides immigrants to learn English to be employable and therefore become tax payers.

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 2:38:40 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<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:

A workforce readiness program would ensure that students receive the industry-based skills and credentials required for employment after graduation or completion of the community school for adults' workforce preparation program. Collaboration between educators and industry employers will enable students to earn a community school for adults' workforce development diploma credential. Students may also earn pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates in addition to an associate degree.

**LATE**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 2:44:40 PM  
Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RogerTansley	Women's Community Correctional Center	Support	No

Comments:

Any employment opportunities we can provide our inmates when they re-enter the community are extremely valuable, so as a Corrections Educator with 15 years' experience in the field, I am very much in favor of this bill. However, I would be interested to know the research involved in the businesses and industries which have committed to hiring former felons with a Workforce Development Diploma; that way we Corrections Educators inside the prisons and jails can tailor our programs to the needs of the individual inmates.

As you are no doubt aware, many employers, including government, are very reluctant to hire former felons for a variety of reasons. My view, based on experience, is that education is the key to **genuine** rehabilitation --- now if only we could get that message across to potential employers, including government, and allay their fears. I, like most Americans, believe in a second chance.

Aloha, Roger Tansley

Women's Community Correctional Center



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

#### Executive Officers

**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*  
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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:  
Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

**LATE**

DATE: January 30, 2020  
TIME: 2:20pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: HB2092 Relating to Schools

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA supports efforts to align educational curriculum to workforce readiness. One of the biggest challenges of doing business in Hawaii right now is lack of skilled, trained workers. Many of our member companies would be interested in collaborating with high schools, the Department of Education Adult Community Schools, community colleges, and the workforce development council to create this program. We believe that increasing workforce readiness will have benefits for Hawaii employees, Hawaii business, and Hawaii consumers.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:53:12 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ana Ramirez	Waipahu community school for adults	Support	No

Comments:

I think is important to offer individuals the option to improve themselves through education specially for adults that didn't have the opportunity to do it before.

**LATE**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:45:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keku DePonte	WIOA Youth Services Program Maui	Support	No

Comments:

As a Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Services Provider, establishing a workforce crosswalk for Adults and non-high school graduates would better assist individuals that may not be "molded" in the traditional setting of college-bound individuals. Additionally, with Post-Secondary Institutions embedding Career & Technical Education (CTE) programming with Work Experience and Internships alongside academic curriculum, it's ideal to have this option as an alternative pathway. This option will allow individuals within a rural community an opportunity to still receive credentials of equivalency and provide industries and local agencies assurance that this service population meets the basic academic requirements and have needed basic employment skills that will allow this service population to be retained by employers. This will also assist in removing the stigma for non-high school graduates attending the Adult School showing an alternative equivalency and workforce focused pathway. Lastly, this opportunity will encompass program outcomes and components required by various federal agency grants such as Department of Labor & Department of Education and further add options for sustainability of the program with continued federal support.

**LATE**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:12:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Georgia G. Goeas	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 7:48:19 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a teacher, I strongly support the workplace readiness program. This program helps adult education students with pursuing their future careers. The workplace readiness program also gives students life skills to help them become strong community contributors, quality producers, and life long learners.



**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2092**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 2:05:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/30/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerianne Fujioka	WCSA Hilo Campus	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a special education teacher that is also teaching Adult Education at Waiphau Community School for Adults at the Hilo Campus. I want to add my support for the Work Readiness program to be taught at Waiphau Community School for Adults at the Hilo Campus. Hawaii island is in great need for more programs like this to help our rural population so they may learn the needed skills to be productive citizens in our community. Please support the Work Readiness program for Hawaii. I really appreciate your prompt attention. Aloha, Geri

# Late Testimony

HB2092 \* January 30, 2020

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of the Lower & Higher Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony at the hearing today. I request your consideration and review of the Hawaii Revised Statutes related to the--

Community Schools for Adults: 302A-432 and 433

"Exceptional Students": 302A-101 Definitions.


Students are limited by age, leaving the DOE, working towards high school credits and other criteria that disqualify students with disabilities who remain in the DOE up until age 22 with an IEP.

Any new HRS program must specifically include all students, including students with IEPs.

432 and 433 need to be updated to include our students with IEPs, too, including the Community Schools for Adults academic classes and community interest classes with the supports they need to participate. This is Sec. 504 and ADA supports, related to SB2244 (and companion House Bill) HRS 368-1.5.

Further, you will note the definition of Exceptional Student is in dire need of a new definition which is passed upon year after year here at the Legislature.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Elento