



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Energy Economic Development, and Tourism
February 11, 2020 at 3:10 p.m.

By
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University of Hawai'i System

SB 2056 – RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chairs Kim, Kidani, and Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 2056, which directs the UH to develop and implement an interactive web tool that will enable degree-seeking individuals to make better informed decisions regarding their post-secondary education and career choices. We support efforts for students to make informed choices about the post-high school and post-college options, and UH has already developed a tool that meets the intent of SB 2056.

Many of the career planning functions identified in SB 2056 are incorporated into UH's Career Explorer website: uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer. Hawai'i Career Explorer uses local and national labor data and information about job postings to inform individuals about education and career choices. Among the types of information available on the Career Explorer site include:

- By occupation, the number of jobs available, projected vacancies and forecasted growth;
- By occupation, average salary in Hawai'i and nationally for entry-level and experienced employees;
- UH programs that prepare students for occupations;
- Number of job postings by Hawai'i employers for the occupation type in the last year, and
- A job aptitude assessment.

The Career Explorer tool was developed by UH Community College (UHCC) staff and its development was supported, in part, by private foundation grants. The next step with Career Explorer is to conduct focus groups with high school and college students to inform improvements in user experience and development of user guides. Also, Career Explorer data are being incorporated into UH's STAR-GPS tool which UH students use for course planning.

The Career Explorer tool is open to use by students and the public. UHCC is committed to continuing training for educators and is available to demonstrate the tool for legislators and partners.



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

Date: 02/11/2020

Time: 03:10 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Higher Education
Senate Education

Senate Energy, Economic Development, and
Tourism

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2056 RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the University of Hawaii to collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop and implement an interactive web tool that will enable degree-seeking individuals to make better-informed decisions regarding their post-secondary education and career choices. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on SB 2056 to develop an interactive web tool for students to make more informed decisions regarding their post-secondary education and career choices.

The Department continues to work collaboratively with the University of Hawaii Community College System Office through Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education on projects that support students through their PreK through workforce pathways. Such projects include the University of Hawaii Community College's (UHCC's) Hawaii Career Explorer tool which allows students to navigate occupations, salaries, and university programs to better prepare them for their career choices.

The Department is also exploring acquiring a technology solution that would support students prior to their transition to higher education or into the workforce so that they can make informed decisions to help them transition successfully.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
3:10 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SB 2056
RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Chairs Kim, Kidani, and Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the
Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)
supports **SB2056**, which requires the University of Hawaii to collaborate with the
Department of Education, and DBEDT to develop and implement an interactive web tool
that will enable degree-seeking individuals to make better-informed decisions regarding
their post-secondary education and career choices.

While DBEDT supports the bill, the department may not have access to the
required data, IT expertise, and financial resources required for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.