



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 25, 2020 at 12:40 p.m.

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

SB 2065 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2065. 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 young adults with momentum toward a degree or certificate.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2065, 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
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/25/2020
Time: 12:40 PM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2065 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2065 to establish a workforce readiness program provided it does not adversely impact the Department's Board-approved budget.

Engaging stakeholders across education, business, industry, and higher education is vital to creating a qualified field of students for in-demand occupations. Currently, internships and apprenticeships are initiated at the school-level as part of a high school's academy, early college, and career technical education (CTE) pathways. National leaders are facilitating a process with 14 Hawaii public high school teams on a robust academy design aligned to the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC). This cohort is offering industry-recognized certificates in partnership with the University of Hawaii Community Colleges and Hawaii Pacific Health. The vision is to ensure a coordinated seamless response by Hawaii's lower and higher public education systems to our local, regional and global economic and labor demands.

The Hawaii Community School for Adults, as a core partner of Hawaii's Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act, worked 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 to design an inter-agency workforce development program for students with an expressed interest in pursuing trades and other employment opportunities.

The Department is strongly committed to supporting, strengthening, and advancing a consolidated statewide effort by schools and complex areas to prepare secondary students for a career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certifications, 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 is reviewing the resources necessary to launch a workforce readiness program beginning school year 2020-2021.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2065.

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.

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

Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 25, 2020

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Time: 12:40 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. No. 2065 RELATING TO SCHOOLS

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB2065 proposes to amend Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section to establish a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education (DOE) to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to the DOE for positions and to develop and implement the program.

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

II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

With the increasing number of Hawaii's students opting to not pursue a college education and move directly to the workforce after graduation, many public schools have been developing industry specific curriculums to meet the high demand for workers in shortage areas. If enacted, the DLIR will work with the DOE on the coordination efforts set forth in the measure.



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

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TO:

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 25, 2020
TIME: 12:40pm
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB2065 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 increase workforce readiness in our state. 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 to develop and implement 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.

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** S.B. No. 2065 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS
Hearing Date: February 25, 2020
Time: 12:40 p.m.
Location: Room 211

Bill Description: Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers.

Early Learning Board's Position: Comments

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on behalf of the ELB related to S.B. No. 2065.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. We are composed of members from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

ELB's mission is to support children's academic and lifelong well-being by directing and supporting the EOEL for an effective, coordinated, high-quality early learning system from prenatal to kindergarten entry. 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, the ELB respectfully requests that early childhood education be included in the implementation of the workforce readiness program. Early childhood education is one of the industries and fields in Hawaii that is sorely lacking a pool of qualified workforce candidates.

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).

Given the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators in the state, the ELB believes that incentives as proposed in this bill would benefit both the community and our students who are interested in entering the field of early childhood education. Students could 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.

SB-2065

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:59:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: