



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

Date: 03/13/2020

Time: 02:05 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: SB 2259, SD1 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the Department of Education's Community School for Adults program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2259, SD1 provided it does not affect the priorities set by the Department's Board-approved budget.

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, 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 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 SB 2259, SD1.

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**

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March 13, 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: Friday, March 13, 2020
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. No. 2259 S.D.1 RELATING TO SCHOOLS

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB2259 SD1 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 coordinate with the DLIR and the Department Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and contract with industry employers to develop and implement the program; and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for 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

The measure will help prepare students to enter the workforce. The 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, the DLIR will continue to work with the DOE to help establish and implement workforce readiness programs.



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

March 10, 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: S.B. No. 2259, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS
Hearing Date: March 13, 2020
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the Department of Education's Community School for Adults program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050.

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 S.B. 2259, S.D. 1.

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 be included in implementation of 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 including ALICE families – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need qualified educators. It is critical to promote equity.

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 ... all of which may incur high costs to the State, and opposite of what high-quality early learning programs are intended to do.

In our work over the years to achieve the goal of expanding access to early learning, we realized the gravity of the need to address 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). One of the things we've learned from our Program as well as our collaborative work across private and public partners in the field is that most if not all of us cannot find enough qualified staff to expand quickly.

We have been in discussions with legislators, and are working with higher education and other stakeholders statewide to find creative ways to increase our early learning workforce to achieve the Legislature's vision.

Given the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators in the state, we believe that incentives 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; for example, this would allow them to work as an educational assistant in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

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: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** S.B. No. 2259, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS
Hearing Date: March 13, 2020
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the Department of Education's Community School for Adults program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050.

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. 2259, S.D. 1.

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).

Even as the EOEL Public Pre-K Program stands now with just over 40 classrooms across the state, it has 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.

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 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.

The ELB appreciates the Legislature's attention to this early learning need.



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

March 11, 2020

Testimony in Support of SB 2259, SD1

Measure Title: Relating to Schools
Report Title: Department of Education; Adult Education; Workforce Development Diploma; Appropriation
Description: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the department of education adult community schools program. Appropriates funds.

McKinley Community School for Adults strongly supports SB 2259 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 SB 2259.

Sincerely,

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

Helen H. Sanpei, Principal

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:48:45 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 SB 2259 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 SB 2259.

Sincerely,

Mark Nakamura, Vice Principal.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:53:08 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blayne	Adult Community Education Advisory Council	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2259.

As a workforce professional with the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations, Workforce Development Division for 4 decades, I firmly believe that this Bill, if passed, will significantly bridge the ongoing gaps between academic learning and experiential success. Work-based, contextualized learning is essential for an employee's success in today's ever-evolving workplace. The DOE's Adult Education Component has long connected with industry and community partners as a key intermediary. This Bill will finally allow for the necessary funding to the DOE's community and industry arm to effectively respond to workforce industry needs.

Thank you for allowing my written testimony to be submitted,

Blayne Hanagami, Member

Adult Community Education Advisory Council

Hawaii Island Workforce Development Manager, Retired (1976-2016).

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:35:36 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raden Nagamine	Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is supporting our at risk, ell and students that are looking at getting basic skills to get into the workforce. It will also provide structure for the the traditional and non-traditional students training in employable skills.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:55:15 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I feel the workforce development proposals in this bill will significantly improve career possibilities for non-college bound students.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:24:06 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Zen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Students I work with at the Moanalua Campus of McKinley Community School For Adults (MCSA) would benefit from all actions included in this bill. Many are looking to improve their careers by adding skills that would make them more effective on the job and enable them to advance in their careers. Taking the classes, and the ability to present certification of such training, is to their benefit. MCSA provides a variety of options for Adults. The support for these activities enables both the ability to provide classes and for Adult students to access such services.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:39:19 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Sanpei	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

McKinley Community School for Adults supports HB 2259 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 2259.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sanpei

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 11:48:29 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Alfonso	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Alan Alfonso

In support of S.B. NO. 2259

Bill Relating to Workforce Readiness Program, Schools

Good morning Chair Justin H. Woodson. My name is Alan Alfonso, I am an educator with the Hawaii Department of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I confidently support the intent of S.B. 2259.

Appropriations for the Workforce Readiness Program will lend credibility and recognition for the program by showing the State's support of the Hawaii Department of Education Community School for Adults (CSA) efforts, allowing the CSA to build off new recognition and increase participation. Thank you for your support in this measure.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:56:12 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

As Principal of the Waipahu Community School for Adults, I am in support of Senate Bill 2259 and the positive impact it will have on our student population and the work industry of Hawaii. Our findings indicate that we have a severe employee shortage, particularly in the areas of entry level jobs in the State of Hawaii. The adults schools have been working very hard to address this need by providing education and training to our students, to help them gain the critical, employable skills needed to obtain a job.

Aside from our regular school enrollment, the adult schools also work with outside agencies and partners to help their clients become employable through the use of our Workforce Development Diploma Program (WDDP). We have seen success with the WDDP in providing potential workers not only basic education, but the soft skills or professional skills necessary to enter the work force. These professional skills include, but are not limited to, active listening, situational judgement, problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and critical thinking.

The passing of SB2259 will allow us to continue our mission of helping our students receive the needed skills for employment and a better lifestyle. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony pertaining to this bill.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:58:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

A workforce readiness program would ensure that students learn skills and earn credentials required for employment by industry after graduation or completion of the community school for adults workforce preparation program

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:11:20 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Wong	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

As the vice principal of the Waipahu Community School for Adults, Windward Campus, I support SB2259. An organized workforce readiness program will greatly help our community's unemployed and underemployed families.

Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:05 PM
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representatives Mark Hashem and Sean Quinlan, Vice Chairs

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Stacelynn Eli, Vice Chair

From: Carl Hinson
Director, Workforce Development

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2259, SD1
Relating to Schools**

My name is Carl Hinson, Director of Workforce Development at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of SB 2259, SD1 which establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the department of education's community schools program.

Collaboration between educators, community colleges, the workforce development council and industry employers would make it possible to train students in fields where the need is greatest and jobs are available. A workforce readiness program would ensure that students learn skills and earn credentials required for employment by industry after graduation or completion of the community school for adults workforce preparation program. Students may also earn pre-apprenticeship certificates and other certificates recognized by industry, in addition to an associate degree.

As one of the largest employers in the state, HPH recognizes the value of the program proposed in SB 2259, SD1 in producing future employees who have been provided with the skills needed to make a meaningful contribution to the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Executive Officers

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*
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Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Lower and Higher Education and Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Rep. Justin H. Woodson and Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chairs
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Rep. Sean Quinlan, and Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 13, 2020
TIME: 2:05pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: SB2259 SD1 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.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:52:39 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Rokuta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a teacher at McKinley Community School for Adults. My students use Workforce Essential Skills Program. They are studying and applying what they learned to their daily lives. Some students have got jobs and are doing well in the community. Some are furthering their education by attending community college. This program has given them the confidence to be a productive and contributing member of our society. Please support this program for the benefit of all students to be Effective Communicators and a positive member of our community. Thank you very much!

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 9:56:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My friends and I from Waianae support this Bill in hope that we can get training to find jobs.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 6:56:03 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Totally support this opportunity for students to have another option to obtain their goals and better themselves and be able to contribute to society.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:00:11 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Preshess Willets-Vaquilar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you committee members for allowing me the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of SB2259 which has to do with the creation of a workforce readiness preparation program.

In my capacity as a Programs and Training Manager, when meeting with industry stakeholders, many times we are told that we just don't have the skilled local talent to fill positions here in the State of Hawaii. This is something that just isn't right. Living in Hawaii is very expensive and without any type of education, let alone not having a high school diploma, how would one ever be able to survive?

Being so, this workforce readiness preparation program is very much needed to address our local populations who are in dire need of skills training to make them prepared and ready for the workforce and even enter the community college system in hopes of one day earning a livable wage to support themselves and their families here in Hawaii.

I humbly support this bill and ask that you please fund it because a measure such as this will positively impact the people of Hawaii, thus providing hope to a population that needs it most.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:05:39 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Uehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:22:02 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cailee Estes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is so important that we continue to support adult education, especially here in Hawaii. It is crucial for us to grow with the needs of our community and offer classes that will help each individual who comes to us reach their full potential. The workforce readiness diploma program will give more opportunities to those who may otherwise not have it.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:58:49 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alex li	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2259 for enhancing adult education to help learners to become employable in the job market. Thank you

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:46:56 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Ngo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:58:29 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fanar Jarjees	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support SB2259 a Bill to establish a workforce readiness program within the DOE's Adult Community Schools Program. The Workforce Program provides learning opportunities for those entering the workforce without a high school diploma to equip them with the necessary basic education and access to job training programs, and an improved future standard of living for those lacking a high school diploma.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:48:11 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2259. 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 SB2259.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:30:17 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarmina Scales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The establishment of a workforce readiness program is in line with the mission at Mckinley Community School for Adults. All the students at MCSA are adults and it is imperative that we support them to get ready for the workforce. Without this support we will lose potentially skillful and valuable workers in our economy. I am in support of all bills pertaining to the establishment to a workforce readiness program in Hawaii.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:12:04 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurt S. Ginoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to serve our workforce population.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:33:07 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Yamane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a teacher of at-risk students at a public intermediate school on O'ahu and as a part-time worker at McKinley Community Schools for Adults, I readily see the need and value of a recognized workforce readiness program. I support SB2259. The purpose of education is to assist people in being positively contributing members of society. This begins with providing equitable opportunities in education, which is providing everyone what they'll need to be successful. Hence, a workforce readiness program that provides additional opportunities for students of all ages is necessary to help this gap group to become employable. Education and employability brings a mindset of increased stability in life which lessens resorting to taking damaging risks in life. A workforce development program will not only help those currently at-risk, but others from becoming at-risk, and it will potentially help industries in need of quality workers. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support of SB2259 on this bigger scale. Aloha...

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:33:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Miyao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB2259 SD1. One of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements for the State of Hawaii Department of Education's Adult Education program is the establishment of Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs which includes workforce readiness. The proposed Workforce Development Diploma is considered as an IET program that will meet this WIOA requirement. It will offer educational services to those adults who lack basic employability skills. The Workforce Development Diploma will also aid those individuals who are seeking advancement in thier current jobs. Funds are needed to develop and offer statewide IET services for those in need.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit a written testimony in support of SB2259 SD1.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:27:27 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eren Avegalio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I work with individuals who are trying to better themselves and get better employment, but who have struggled academically for one reason or another. They were not able to get a HS diploma and are not able to pass the GED or HiSET. These individuals need something, they need supports that will afford them the opportunity to be able to work without a HS diploma or HS equivalency. The Workforce Readiness Diploma program gives these individuals this alternative. I am in support of SB2259.

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 3:26:32 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Kayatani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While many legislative bills are enacted to regulate and/or control existing conditions, SB 2259 presents a great opportunity to create a lifelong, legislative legacy. This bill will allow the Hawaii DOE, Community Schools for Adults and DLIR to create, establish and sustain a much needed Workforce Readiness Program. This program will provide necessary training for individuals to earn a Workforce Readiness Diploma and enter the workforce, eliminating their dependency on public subsistence programs. It will be a wonderful investment that will pay for itself over time, as more unemployed individuals enter the workforce. As such, I highly recommend the passing of SB 2259

SB-2259-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 7:39:14 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert L Ginlack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to give SB2259 your serious consideration. The Adult Community Schools are in dire need of a WORKFORCE READINESS program. Presently there are not enough programs and opportunities to bridge the gap for those adults who did not complete high school/college and need additional training to become successfully employed.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!