



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

Date: 02/19/2020

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2259 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the department of education adult community schools program. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2259 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.

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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February 19, 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: Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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

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

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB2259 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 appropriate 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 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

February 17, 2020

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 2259 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS
Hearing Date: February 19, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Room 211

Bill Description: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the department of education adult community schools program. Appropriates funds.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Comments

Good morning. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on S.B. 2259.

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.

We appreciate the Senate Committee on Education urging, consideration of applying workforce readiness in high-need areas of education such as early childhood education in implementation of the proposed workforce readiness diploma program, as reflected in its committee report for this bill. **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 – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need qualified educators. It is critical to promote equity.

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.

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.

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.

Thursday, February 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Carl Hinson
Director, Workforce Development

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 2259
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 which establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the department of education adult 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 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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Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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 19, 2020
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB2259 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

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 10:17:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Jyo	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 2259. 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 successful 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.



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

February 16, 2020

Testimony in Support of SB 2259

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

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 2:55:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark T. Nakamura	Testifying for 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 a 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

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 10:26:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

[COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS](#)

To the Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

My name is Blayne Hanagami, recently-retired after nearly 4 decades as a Workforce Development Manager and newly-appointed member of the Adult Community Education Advisory Council. I submit favorable testimony for SB2259 as workforce readiness skills are arguably as essential in an employee's success as with his/her academic and technical background.

A formalized diploma program will be a quantum leap in quantifying skills attainment relative to what industry has long deemed critical to succeed as a highly effective worker. The DOE's Adult Education Program is the most logical entity to administer and implement this program as it already serves as the liaison to education and industry. Moreover, it is a critical partner in the landmark national workforce program, Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act (WIOA)

I strongly urge you and your Committee to give SB2259 your favorable consideration as this industry-focused initiative, if sustained, will strengthen our workforce, work places, and consequently, fuel a robust economy.

Sincerely,

Blayne Hanagami, Member

Adult Community Education Advisory Council

(808) 443-6397

LATE

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:01:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pat Anbe	Testifying for 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 the Hawaii Adult Schools and the communities we 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. Many of our students do not come with employability and professional skills and need assistance in becoming qualified employees. As the adult schools are a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), we are required to help transition our learners from school to work. SB 2259 will help tremendously in allowing us to carry out our mission of advancing adult learners to the workforce by providing a workforce development credential that our students can earn.

LATE

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:09:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Current high school graduates and non—graduates would benefit from aligning educational curriculum to a workforce readiness preparation program. This alignment depends upon close collaboration between the Department of Education Adult Community Schools and High Schools, Community Colleges, Workforce Development Council, and Employers. 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.

LATE

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:01:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB2259 to assist our school in its efforts to provide an education pathway for adults in our community. We service Windward Oahu areas from Waimanalo to Sunset Beach and work to support individuals in classes to improve their quality of life.

LATE

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:52:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Yamane	Testifying for MCSA	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. Equitable access to the workforce 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. A workforce development program will not only help those currently at-risk, but others from becoming at-risk, and it will help industries in need of potential workers. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support of SB2259 on this bigger scale. Aloha...

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 3:41:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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 continuing need for public subsistance. It will be a wonderful investment that will pay for itself over time, as more unemployed individuals receiving public subsistance enter the workforce. As such, I highly recommend that the WAM committee fully fund SB 2259. Mahalo!

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 6:44:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Sanpei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RE: SB2259, Relating to Workforce Readiness Diploma
Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10:00am

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am in support of SB2259 which establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the Department of Education Adult Community Schools Programs. This policy and funding will support career pathways programs that will contribute to the economic well-being of individuals, employers and communities. It is important to have a coordinated network of adult basic education, postsecondary education and workforce development. Job training programs need to align with workforce partners to create seamless transitions for learners. SB2259 will build up our workforce and change lives.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Mendelson
Special Education Teacher

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 9:25:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I support SB2259. One of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements for the State of Hawaii Department of Education's Adult and Community 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 their current jobs.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit a written testimony for SB2259.

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 5:19:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill to help prepare workers for jobs.

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:59:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Offering another option for students to get ahead is always a positive.

Education is such an important part of one's life and the opportunity to

learn and get ahead in this program is a plus.

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:16:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support a workforce readiness program within the DOE's Adult Community Schools Program.

SB-2259

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:52:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB2259. 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.