



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 10:35 a.m.

By

Dr. Nathan Murata  
Dean, College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
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### SB 2691 SD1 – RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION

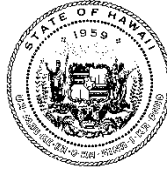
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2691, SD1 which establishes a network improvement community task force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teacher education degree for the University of Hawai'i.

The College of Education supports the intent of this bill, provided that its passage does not impact priorities in our BOR Approved Budget, for establishing a K-12 STEM task force. In collaborating with the HIDOE, community colleges, neighbor island HIDOE administrators, teachers, and private entities to examine the feasibility of a K-12 STEM curriculum and program is a potential innovative approach to STEM teacher training. This statewide effort requires technology support in order to provide quality learning opportunities and access for all interested teacher candidates.

The delivery of high-quality professional opportunities and teacher mentoring is essential to building teacher capacity and confidence in the development of STEM K-12 curriculum and program. In order to arrive at a high quality STEM K-12 program, the college will work closely with all interested parties to ensure academic quality and work force success.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2691 SD1.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

February 20, 2020

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT ON SENATE BILL 2691 SD1,**  
**RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION**

**SUBMITTED BY LYNN HAMMONDS FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) offers comments and a request for amendment on SB 2691 SD1 to establish a network improvement community task force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teacher education degree for the University of Hawaii and appropriate funds.

The HTSB fully supports the development of STEM teacher education programs in Hawaii, and has adopted specific content knowledge requirements for the STEM field that were recommended by teacher practitioners in the field. These requirements allow for use of professional development credits in addition to the regular use of licensure tests and university coursework.

The HTSB also **respectfully requests** that the Executive Director or designee of the HTSB be added to the task force to provide information on the requirements for approval of state approved teacher education programs that lead to state licensure, one of the HTSB's statutory responsibilities. The HTSB suggests the following amendment in Section 1 (b), regarding membership of the task force:

- (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- (1) The chancellor of the University of Hawaii Maui college;
  - (2) The complex area superintendent for the Baldwin-Kaulike-Maui complex area;
  - (3) The head master of Kamehameha Schools Maui; ~~and~~
  - (4) The dean of the University of Hawaii Manoa college of education; and
  - (5) The executive director of the Hawaii teacher standards board.

The HTSB thanks the Senate Committees for introducing and hearing this bill to support Hawaii teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

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

**Date:** 02/20/2020  
**Time:** 10:35 AM  
**Location:** 211  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2691, SD1 RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a network improvement community task force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teacher education degree for the University of Hawaii. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2691, SD1 to develop the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher pipeline to address the shortage of qualified STEM teachers in Hawaii, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education-approved budget.

The Department notes that the work of the proposed task force overlaps with the charge of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC), under 304A-1202. The Department recommends that this work be incorporated under the TECC, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of task force members.

The Department also notes that teaching and learning is aligned to state standards in science, computer science, and mathematics. Complex areas may not have a "complex area curriculum" (page 2, line 20 of the bill) in each of these content areas. Board Policies 105-1: Academic Program and 105-3: Curriculum outline the role of schools in making curricular and instructional decisions to provide a quality, standards-based academic program. The Department's school design strategy prioritizes a flexible and adaptive approach, empowering each school to make decisions about specific contexts and partnerships for developing high quality and relevant learning experiences based on the needs of their students and the local community. Within the Department, a tri-level system comprised of the schools, complex areas and state offices respond and provide multiple instructional and infrastructure supports to meet a school's outcomes across the range of school design models.

Finally, the Department respectfully recommends that the charge of the task force include researching existing programs and initiatives within the Department and University of Hawaii system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2691, 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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

**LATE**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2691, S.D. 1, RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Thursday, February 20, 2020      **TIME:** 10:35 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Lori N. Tanigawa,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1271)

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Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish within the University of Hawaii a network improvement community task force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teacher education degree for the University of Hawaii (UH).

Article X, section 6, of the Hawai'i Constitution, gives the UH Board of Regents "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." We therefore suggest that the Legislature consider amending this bill to add a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**SB-2691-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 4:27:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

*Without further data on what exactly this degree would entail, I can only offer comments. While STEM has been trendy for the last few years and is often pushed by "the sciences" and other folks, we are learning that degrees specifically in STEM do not fully encompass the needs of sending fully rounded humans into the work force. Without language, arts, culture, global awareness and social skills, we are finding that we have many "STEM" folks who can not communicate or function in the real world. I would suggest that when this new path is researched that the committee dig deep to look into what really is needed for the future. The SDGs and Block Chain as well as AI people would have us all thinking that STEM is a positive path, it is but only with the other components. sincerely, 40 year educator*