



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 2:50 p.m.

By

Dr. Nathan Murata
Dean, College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2691 – RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2691 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 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. 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.



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

Date: 01/30/2020
Time: 02:50 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2691 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2691 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.

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.