



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

**Date:** 02/26/2021

**Time:** 09:30 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0509, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes criteria for industry certification awards to public high schools and appropriates funds to the Department of Education to incentivize public high schools to encourage students to obtain industry-recognized certifications. Requires the Department to submit an annual report containing specified information about the progress of the incentivization. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 509, SD1 and requests that in addition to the awards to the high schools, the appropriation noted in the measure also provides resources to assist in modifying existing data collection systems to collect the information being requested in the bill.

The Department recognizes this measure provides multiple opportunities to award public high schools monetary awards for the number of students who earn industry-recognized certifications based on high-value employment, connection to post-secondary, or fulfillment of regional demands as outlined by the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy report.

As public high schools establish or expand their Career and Technical Education programs of study in their school design, the Department is committed to strengthening and advancing a concerted effort with its various partners to prepare students for the college and career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certification, and/or college credits to contribute to the vitality of Hawaii's workforce.

In order to meet the reporting requirements requested in this measure, the Department will need to explore our current data collection options and modify them to generate the requested reports and requests that resources be provided for this endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 509, 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).

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February 26, 2021

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: Friday, February 26, 2021  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. No. 509 S.D. 1 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

This proposal establishes criteria for industry certification awards to public high schools and appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to incentivize public high schools to encourage students to obtain industry-recognized certifications.

The Department supports the intent of the measure, requests an amendment, and otherwise defers to DOE's recommendation on the proposal.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

The current law does not require DLIR to share data with the DOE. Act 41, (SLH, 2010), required the department to share data with other agencies to help meet the longitudinal data requirement of the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The U.S. Department of Labor (U.S.DOL) has long interpreted methods of administration to require the confidentiality of UI information and to follow the Congressional mandate that UI information be used only for the purpose for which it is directed. According to HRS §383-95 and HAR §12-5-211 to §12-5-220, disclosure of information from workers, employers, or other persons or groups in the course of administering the state employment security program shall be held confidential and

shall not be disclosed unless authorized requesting agencies have entered into a written agreement with the Department.

U.S.Dol guidance in Unemployment Insurance Program Letter NO. 34-97 sets forth the criteria regarding the basic confidentiality and disclosure requirements for the Federal-State unemployment compensation (UC) program for sharing information with other public officials. Records may be disclosed where the public official is enforcing a law and:

1. The disclosure is permitted by State law (§383-95),
2. The disclosure would not significantly hinder or delay the processing of UI claims, or significantly hinder other activities of the State employment security agency, or such disclosure would not impede the efficient administration of the State employment security law,
3. The public officials continue to safeguard the confidentiality of the records, and
4. If disclosure entails more than incidental time, arrangements are made for the reimbursement of costs.

### **III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

The DLIR requests an amendment to delete the department from the measure. The DLIR has a Memorandum of Agreement with P-20 Partnerships for Education to provide the information necessary for Hawaii P-20, the DOE, and the University of Hawaii to develop high value employment criteria for making industry certification awards to public high schools. In addition, the department is always willing and able to assist these partners to address the critical shortage of qualified local workers in various sectors.

The Senate Committee on Education's intent to replace DLIR with P-20 is reflected in EDU's committee report and the change was made on page 3, lines 18 and 19 in §302A- (b) of SB509 SD1, but not in § 302A- (c) on page 4, lines 4-7. The department requests inserting the Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education instead of DLIR on page 4, lines 5-6.