



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 2:10 p.m.

By

Nathan Murata, Dean
College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1204 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

Chairs Perruso and Woodson, Vice-Chairs Kapela and Marten, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of HB 1204, relating to Public Education. This scholarship program shall cover the cost of tuition for four years leading to a bachelor's degree in teaching, provided that the candidate remains in good academic standing. In return the student must commit to teaching in a public-school classroom of the department of education.

The University of Hawai'i, College of Education (COE) offers comments to the following:

Termination from the program

Termination from any program should follow the guidelines set forth by the university or college which includes grade point averages, and satisfactorily completing all requirements with a course determined passing grade.

Service Obligation requirements

Students will need to complete seven out of ten years of teaching following graduation, and obtaining a license from the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. The COE offers a suggestion whereby a ratio or years of service for each year served be the foundation of determining service obligations requirements. For instance, for any federal personnel preparation grant, scholars are required to fulfill a ratio of 2:1 (two years for every year of funding). There may be students who may have elected to enroll later and therefore receive less than the four-year allotment.

Admission Requirements; Policy and Procedures for implementation

- (a) The COE supports the establishment of the public education scholarship program. The COE will work with the HIDOE, and University of Hawai'i's Outreach College to promote a pathway for a scholarship program.

(b) The COE requests that resources be provided in order to address the admission requirements, policy and procedures, and monitoring of students prior to admission, during the program, and upon completion. The monitoring system is needed to ensure candidates are completing their service obligation.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1204.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1204, RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY AND ON
EDUCATION

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 **TIME:** 2:10 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Perruso and Woodson and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a public education scholarship program to be administered by the University of Hawaii.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "[t]his 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." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/08/2023
Time: 02:10 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Higher Education &
Technology
House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1204 RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the public school education scholarship program within the University of Hawaii to provide students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a public school classroom of the department of education. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is in support of HB 1204.

The Department currently administers several tuition stipend programs that cover course work in various University of Hawaii education programs leading toward teacher certification. However, due to constraints of annual funding, the Department's stipend programs are limited to course work specifically in the colleges of education.

A full four-year scholarship program to cover the tuition necessary to complete a bachelor's degree in education, including all undergraduate course work, would reduce the cost burden and provide a great incentive for potential teacher candidates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1204.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 1204 Relating to Public Education
DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 2:10 PM
COMMITTEE: Committee on Higher Education and Technology; Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Peruso, Vice Chair Kapela, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT with COMMENTS on HB 1204** which would establish the public school education scholarship program within the University of Hawaii to provide students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a public school classroom of the department of education.

The Commission supports efforts to increase the number of licensed certified teachers; however, we ask that language be added to include those students who make a commitment to teach at a public charter school as well.

We offer the following amendments to Section 1:
Page 1 line 9

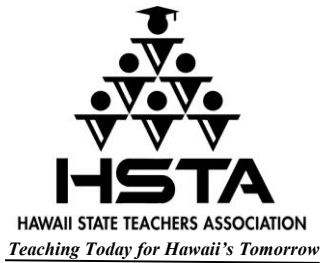
(a) ...“The program shall pay for the tuition of a student in return for a service commitment to teach in a public school classroom of the department of education **and/or a Hawai‘i public Charter School.**”

and page 2 line 4

- (c) ...“Recipients shall complete seven years of teaching out of the ten years following graduation and having obtained a license from the Hawaii teacher standards board in a

public school classroom of the department of education **and/or a Hawai'i public Charter School.**"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita.
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER
EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

RE: HB 1204 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Perruso, Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1204**, relating to public education. The bill establishes the public school education scholarship program within the University of Hawai'i to provide students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a public school classroom of the Department of Education and appropriates funds.

The annual cost to attend college at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa can be as much as \$30,000 a year and on average it takes full-time students nearly five-and-a-half years to graduate. Though tuition at UH isn't considered high when compared to similar schools, it could still cost as much as \$162,000 to graduate. Many take out loans to cover that expense.

Teachers in Hawai'i are some of the lowest paid in the country, when adjusted for cost of living. Add to this the fact that teachers too often pay for teaching and classroom supplies out of their own pockets, subsidizing public education out of their own funds. These are some of the reasons why the Department of Education struggles to attract and retain teachers in our public schools.

The scholarship program established by this bill could help address these recruitment and retention issues by covering the cost of a student's tuition for the University of Hawaii in exchange for a commitment to teach in a public school classroom for not less than seven years out of a period of ten, following their graduation with a teaching degree.

While the bill doesn't limit program recipients to in-state students, it will very possibly be utilized by local students far more than out-of-state students. Not only does this help incentivize local high school students to attend college, but encourages them to remain in Hawaii and put their education to use to teach the next generation of students.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



The House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
&

The House Committee on Education

February 8, 2023

Room 309, 2:10 PM

RE: **HB 1204, Relating to Public Education**

Attention: Chairs Amy Perruso and Justin Woodson, Vice Chairs Jeanne Kapela and Lisa Marten, and Members of the Committees

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify **supporting the intent of HB 1204**, Relating to Public Education.

HB 1204 enables students in pursuit of educational degrees the opportunity to achieve their goals with a decreased financial burden. As the teacher shortage for Hawai'i schools persists, financial assistance at the university level and a commitment to give back through work with the Department of Education may alleviate the teacher shortage in lower education, and encourage the public to seek out degrees in education.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Website: www.uhpa.org

HB-1204

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:46:54 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/8/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT.

I support this bill which establishes the public school education scholarship program within the University of Hawai'i to provide students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a public school classroom of the department of education. Appropriates funds. Growing our own educators in our unique Hawai'i will be a powerful asset to our islands.

HB-1204

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:23:45 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/8/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1204.