



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

Date: 03/16/2022

Time: 03:10 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi
Hawaii State Department of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1561, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes within the department of education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program. Appropriates funds for the workforce readiness program and two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) adult workforce readiness program coordinator positions. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

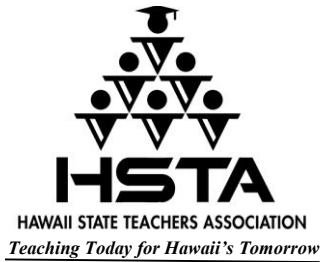
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1561, HD1 and appreciates the budgetary appropriation included in this measure to continue its workforce readiness programs, but requests that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding for existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to an array of educational opportunities and needed resources and support for all students.

The McKinley and Waipahu Community Schools for Adults, as recipients of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant, have been collaboratively working with the Workforce Development Council, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, along with

employers in the job market and the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, to develop an inter-agency workforce development program for youth and adults with an expressed interest in pursuing trades and other employment opportunities. The appropriation and positions provided in HB 1561, HD1 will enhance this work.

The Department is strongly committed to supporting, strengthening, and advancing a consolidated statewide effort to prepare students for the career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certifications, and/or post-secondary credits to contribute to the vitality of Hawaii's workforce and considers the Community Schools for Adults an integral part of this pipeline.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1561, HD1.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita.
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 1561, HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1561, HD1** relating to education. This bill will establish within the Department of Education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate and workforce development degrees, pre-apprenticeship and other industry-recognized certificates.

HSTA supports workforce readiness programs. Across the country, as well as in Hawai'i, a majority of job openings are for positions that do not require a college or post-graduate degree. **Data from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations tells us that more than 70% of jobs in the state don't require more than a high school diploma.**

This kind of vocational training, currently called career and technical education (CTE), should be a viable alternative to college, which becomes increasing cost-prohibitive with each passing year. According to a national study, only 25% of job-seekers said they received vocational training in high school, while more than 40% saying they wished they had received more.

This bill will allow that more than 40% of Hawai'i high school graduates, who do not want to attend a four-year college, to have more opportunities to receive industry-based skills and certifications required to join the competitive 21st century job market. By creating this workforce development program, appropriating funds and staffing, the legislature will make a strong statement about their support for our students, both young and old.

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



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 3:10 P.M.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

RE: HB 1561, HD1 Relating to Education

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1561, which:

- Establishes within the department of education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates.
- Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program.
- Appropriates funds for the workforce readiness program and two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) adult workforce readiness program coordinator positions.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports the development and funding of sector-driven collaboratives to address Hawaii's talent pipeline and workforce development solutions. Sector Partnerships provide a forum for employers, educators, community partners and public sector leaders to collaborate on opportunities to strengthen and grow their sector. We believe that convening and facilitating a shared space for employers and educators is instrumental to preparing Hawaii residents for in-demand jobs and helping employers find skilled workers.

Establishing a workforce readiness program in Hawaii would ensure that students learn skills and earn credentials required by industry for employment after graduation. Industry-recognized credentials are important because they teach the specific knowledge and skills that are required for an occupation or industry. With the rise in student debt and workforce shortages across multiple industries, this bill helps students find a career path they can thrive in, while also strengthening and diversifying our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

March 12, 2022

Testimony in Support of HB1561, HD 1

Measure Title: Relating to Education
Report Title: Department of Education; Adult Education; Workforce Development Diploma
Description: Establishes within the department of education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pe-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools to participate in the program.

McKinley Community School for Adults strongly supports HB1561, HD1 to establish a workforce diploma program within the Department of Educations' Community School for Adults program. This workforce readiness diploma program will provide additional employment opportunities for our students.

While our school's 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.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has identified 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 HB 1561, HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen H. Sanpei".

Helen H. Sanpei, Principal

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1561, H.D. 1

March 16, 2022
3:10 p.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1561, H.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 302A to: 1) establish a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education (DOE) to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates; 2) require the DOE to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program; and 3) establish 2.00 full-time equivalent positions and appropriate an unspecified sum in general funds for FY 23.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 11:09:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark T. Nakamura	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 12, 2022

Representative Justin Woodson, Education Chairperson

Representative Jeanne Kapela, House Education Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB1561, Relating to Education

Honorable Representative Woodson and Honorable Representative Kapela:

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 HB 1561 relating to the establishment of a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates.

Presently, the Community School for Adults (CSA) services a variety of clientele in the community from juvenile age individuals pursuing their high school equivalency (HSE) certification to senior citizens who are looking to improve their English language competency for personal development or to bring forth more job opportunities. Through our various services the CSA supports individuals to get workforce ready through our programs whether it is through credentials or via classroom instruction to build work related skills. Thus, the establishment of a workforce readiness program would further support our clientele by helping to empower and prepare them for the workforce, while also supporting them in their desire to better themselves and contribute to a more educated community. Further, the establishment of a workforce readiness program provides an important community service that supports students of all ages and backgrounds. Although helping an individual attain their high school equivalency or contributing to an individual's growth in the English language are important outcomes that contribute to the workforce, the establishment of a workforce readiness program will further provide individuals with an additional resource to support them in their desire to grow, improve, and better oneself. This aspect is particularly important considering the state of our economy and job opportunities due to the pandemic.

The establishment of a workforce readiness program via HB 1561 will allow our campuses to further service employers and the overall community to develop individuals occupationally which contributes to a better community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Nakamura,

Vice Principal, MCSA

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 2:47:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan S. Hayashi	Testifying for Workforce Development Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

From: Alan Hayashi, Chairman Workforce Development Council

Subject: HB1561 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Honorable Chair Kidani and Honorable Vice Chair Kim: My name is Alan Hayashi, Chairman of the Workforce Development Council, testifying in strong support of HB1561 HD1 Relating to Education.

With the current shortage of qualified employees in many sectors of Hawaii's economy, we feel this workforce development measure will assist in assuring accelerated growth of the qualified labor pool.

Thank you for the ability to testify. All best wishes.

Workforce Development Council

Alan S. Hayashi, Chairman



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1561: Relating to Education – Adult Workforce Readiness Program

March 14, 2022

To: Chair Senator Kidani, Vice Chair Senator Mercado-Kim and Members of the Committee on Education

From: Joni N. Chun, Executive Director, Susannah Wesley Community Center

Hearing: 3:10PM, Wednesday, March 16, 2022, House Conference Room 229

Representative Luke, Chair and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1561 which establishes within the department of Education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associates degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates and appropriates funds for the program and for two full-time equivalent adult workforce readiness program coordinator positions.

I am Joni Chun, Executive Director of the Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC), a non-profit organization located in the heart of Kalihi with 20 years of experience providing alternative learning opportunities to disadvantaged students (16 years old to adults). **SWCC supports HB 1561** as it creates the starting infrastructure and funding to enhance alternative pathways for the disadvantaged to advance their education, develop workforce readiness, enhance household income.

On behalf of the Susannah Wesley Community Center, we thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony and reiterate our **support for HB 1561**.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:08:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pat Anbe	Testifying for Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1561

On behalf of the Waipahu Community School for Adults and our students, I am writing in support of HB1561.

As a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Hawaii Adult Schools are tasked with the very important mission of helping our students obtain employment or further their education.

Currently, the adult schools receive a limited amount of State General Funds to cover the operational costs of our campuses on every island in the State. For many years we have maintained our salaried positions with these funds, but have not been able to create a new, unique salaried position that would help develop career and work opportunities for our students. The extra positions afforded to us in this Bill will allow us to create unique and innovative educational opportunities for our students to enter or reenter the workforce.

Thank you for allowing this time to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

Sincerely,

Pat Anbe, Principal

Waipahu Community School for Adults

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 16, 2022

The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Kidani and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1561 HD1 Relating to Education

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports HB1561 HD1** which establishes within the department of education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program. Appropriates funds for the workforce readiness program and two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) adult workforce readiness program coordinator positions.

The Council is currently working on a Highschool to work pilot project in partnership with Waipahu Highschool and Leeward Community College to produce Registered Behavioral Therapists (RBTs). This pilot project aims to increase the amount of RBTs within the state to address the state-wide shortage of RBTs. RBTs work with individuals with autism in school, community, and home settings to work on their behavioral skills. RBTs are a critical job position that helps individuals with autism integrate and be a part of our community. The Council supports this measure to make pilot projects like this streamlined and the status quo for our workforce in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting HB1561 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 3:10 p.m.

By
Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1561 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 1561 House Draft (HD) 1 relating to Education. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of the bill.

HB 1561 HD1 would establish the Adult Workforce Readiness program within the Department of Education to be administered by schools including the Community Schools for Adults. The bill would “provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, as well as workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates that assess and document the student’s readiness for a wide range of employment.” The bill would create positions to coordinate workforce preparation, especially under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

UH requests that the bill’s subsection (c) be clarified that the Department of Education’s workforce readiness program prepare and refer adult students to the UH community colleges for associate degrees.

UH notes that the HB 1561 HD1 allows for coordination with state departments and for contracts with local industry employers to develop and implement a workforce readiness program. UH requests that UH be included among the departments that the Department of Education will coordinate for the adult workforce readiness. UH provides a significant amount of workforce training. Last year, 2020-21, UH community colleges awarded more than 2,600 career and technical education Associates degrees or Certificates of Achievement and provided more than 16,000 non-credit workforce training opportunities. UH is currently implementing a 3-year, \$13.3 million federal workforce grant which is providing job training in healthcare, technology and skilled trades through the Hana Career Pathways program (uhcc.hawaii.edu/training).

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with the Department of Education to improve adult workforce readiness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:21:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhys Ragasa	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults - Moanalua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As ELA Coordinator for the Moanalua campus, bill HB 1561 has my full support. It is crucial for us as adult educators that we help integrate our students into society by providing them the necessary tools to acquire jobs and higher levels of education. This bill will ensure that students who are ready to take that step will be able to make the necessary connections, receive the proper education, and have the support required to further their careers. Ultimately, this bill has the students' best interest in mind and is the epitome of what adult education stands for.



Senate Committee on Education

**Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 3:10 P.M.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference**

RE: HB 1561 HD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) Hawaii supports HB1561 HD1 which establishes within the department of education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. It requires the department to designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program, and appropriates funds for the workforce readiness program and two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) adult workforce readiness program coordinator positions.

SHRM Hawaii serves and represents nearly 600 members and employers' statewide and human resource management is a critical component to the success and survival of the many businesses that make up our local economy. HR professionals are responsible for evaluating and balancing the needs of both the employers and employees and caring for businesses' most valuable asset: the working people of our state.

Establishing a workforce readiness program in Hawaii would ensure that students learn skills and earn credentials required by industry for employment after graduation. Industry-recognized credentials are important because they teach the specific knowledge and skills that are required for an occupation or industry. With the rise in student debt and workforce shortages across multiple industries, this bill helps students find a career path they can thrive in, while also strengthening and diversifying our economy.



SHRM Hawaii is a firm believer in work-based learning, and our members welcome the opportunity to work with schools and adult learning community schools to hire and train the future of Hawaii's workforce.

We appreciate the committee bringing policies forward that would help advance our economy and get people back to work. We stand in support of this bill and support workforce readiness programs like the one outlined in this legislation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Kalani Morse
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chair

Dailyn Yanagida
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chair



HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 7:23:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. I live on the Waianae Coast and there are many people here that need jobs but know how to get a job. This program will help many of my neighbors and friends. Please help us. Thank you

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 11:03:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support academic and vocational enrichment to be integrated in our schools as a means to empower our students to find their independence - and more specifically so, because in this era of economic despair and millennial entitlement, it is the best that we can do, to equip our children to survive.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:40:28 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gladys Ozaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB1561 for the establishment of adult workforce readiness programs and funding to support one each full time program coordinator at McKinley & Waipahu Community Schools for Adults. Students involved in these programs will have opportunities to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, certifications, and industry recognized certificates to better prepare them for advanced degrees and/or towards gainful employment. This bill will benefit students and adults in the Farrington Community. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 1:45:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Choi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1561 to continue educating our people for a viable workforce for themselves as well as their families and our community.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 11:31:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jorie Patalinghog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Adults who are trying to continue their pursuit in education deserve this resource.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 8:54:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Miyao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 12,
2022

TO: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson,
Chair
Chair
Education

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice
And Members of the Committee on

FROM

: Deborah K.
Miyao
of Hawaii Department of Education Educational Specialist for Adult
and Acting Adult Basic Education State Director

Retired State
Education

RE: H.B.
1561
g: Tuesday, March 16, 2022, Room 229 and videoconference 3:10 P.M.

Hearin

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Good Afternoon Representative Woodson, Representative Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Education. I am Deborah K. Miyao, a retired State of Hawaii Department of Education Educational Specialist in Adult Education and Acting Adult Basic Education State Director. I strongly support HB 1561.

A

workforce readiness diploma program, by Hawaii’s Community Schools for Adults (CSAs), would highly benefit adults who are 16 years of age or older, are out of school youth, and are those who lack a high school diploma and/or basic skills. The CSAs would deliver a customized workforce readiness curriculum that would lead to a skilled workforce by offering academic

career preparation and job readiness skills with a potential for pre-apprenticeships. An appropriation of State funds earmarked for a workforce readiness diploma program is seriously needed for the development, implementation, and coordination of a workforce readiness diploma program for Hawaii's adult learners.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit a written testimony for HB1561. Tha

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:50:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karie Izuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1561 as there are many individuals that can benefit from educational and training programs to better equip them with skills needed to support themselves and their families in the real world. Students in the Farrington Community will definitely benefit from these programs. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 2:02:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Tagawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I humbly ask for your support of the Community School for Adults workforce readiness program that provides opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. As a retiree of the DOE Adult Community School and a current GED Proctor, I wholeheartedly believe in and support the continued services to our students to become more work ready in our community. Thank you and grateful for your support.

Lynn Tagawa

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 10:09:28 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Izuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of House Bill 1561 that establishes a workforce readiness program and provides opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certification and other industry-recognized certificates. This measure will provide greater access to programs and give students a better chance for success in the workforce and in life.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 8:26:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Sakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully request you pass HB1561.

As a teacher with the adult education program I have first hand experience with students in various programs and I know that the Work Force Development program will benefit students in a way to further their education and open doors for employment and become productive students in our community. Through the program, I have assisted and coached students on real life situations including preparing resumes and preparing for job interviews. These students don't have much alternatives and they rely on adult education as a means to develop their knowledge and skills to be competitive in society. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

mahalo,

Dean Sakamoto

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:34:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Fukumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1561 - Establishing a workforce readiness diploma program within the Department of Education's Community School for Adults program. Establishing a workforce readiness program through partnerships and collaborative efforts with the department of labor and industrial relations, workforce development council, American Job Centers, local business, hotels, employers, apprenticeship programs, community colleges, and other public and private sectors would provide students with greater opportunities to gain basic academic skills, employability and work readiness skills to be career-ready for the workforce. Current programs to include the Workforce Development Diploma and Career Foundations programs affords students sixteen years or older 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 they live in. HB1561 appropriates needed funding in our efforts to implement the workforce readiness program. Both CSA's (McKinley and Waipahu) would greatly benefit from this bill in its efforts to implement the workforce readiness programs and offer greater opportunities for students to earn pre-apprentice certificates and other industry recognized certifications for employment and careers in the workforce.

Thank you very much for your consideration in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:22:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Ngo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1561 that will help our Vietnamese community that I belong to here in Kalihi. We need this program to help my family and friends get a job. I support this bill so that we can help others in my community. Thank you.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 6:54:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I totally support this bill. Alternative sources and availability is needed for those who were unable to complete their education and who want to now better themselves.

You are never to old to learn and grow.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:35:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1561 which establishes with the Department of Education Community Schools for Adults a Workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates. As a retired educator I have experienced the need for such programs for a very long time and see this as an opportunity to help our struggling communities.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:26:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scot Seo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill very strongly as well as the effort the community schools are taking to prepare students for their career pipeline with the necessary skills and certifications required for entry into the workforce. Students on Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and the island of Hawaii are remotely located and in need of these services to ensure that they can secure jobs to support themselves and their families. Thank you.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:47:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoon Ok Won	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a long time educator, I see the many benefits of this Workforce Development Diploma program and support the Community School for Adults as they work towards preparing adult students for the workforce. Given the COVID 19 situation, many businesses in Hawaii are sorely lacking sufficient number of employees and the vacate positions available for hire are numerous. Help the school and our citizens by passing this Bill.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:13:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylee Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1561 and its mission to help provide support and education for students who are entering the employment industry upon graduating/completing an adult school program.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 9:25:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aukai Pia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill because it helps those who desperately in need of a job but lack the training necessary to secure a job.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:14:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Hamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 1561. Appropriating funds for the Workforce Readiness Program within the adult community schools will enable students to be more employable in the community and beyond. This will further opportunities for future career success. Please support House Bill 1561, Mahalo!

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 9:06:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Ginlack	Testifying for Dept. of Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After a very difficult and disruptive period of suffering form the effects of covid-19, we need toa become more proactive and creative in providing programs that will ensure that our students leaving the system are prepared to enter the job market.

After reading HB. 1561 there is a continuing need for the high schools, adult community schools, community colleges and other employers in the community to support the workforce development council toward the continuous implementation of the workforce preparation program.

We all know how difficult it wad during the pandemic getting studetns involved in the variouss programs offered. I strongly believe that this the time when we must implement House Bill 1561 to kick-start the many programs that will help our graduates and non-graduates find employment.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 1:52:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Chun	Testifying for MCSA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill that will help CSA's such as the McKinley Campus get the necessary governmental support so that they can continue to provide the services in the community to help students become more work ready.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:27:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Jyo	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1561. As a WIOA Mandated Partner, McKinley CSA (Adult Education) is tasked to provided a comprehensive array of services to include educational support programs (Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency Credential, Workforce Development Diploma, etc.), employability training and access to services provided by community, business, armed forces, workforce partners. This also includes support to those currently incarcerated (GED preparation and testing, employabilty and soft skills training). HB 1561 enables CSA's to continue to provide our Workfroce Readiness Efforts. Mahalo.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:32:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Balinbin	Testifying for MCSA Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prices of homes are going up and locals are being pushed out. Programs like this, will help to keep locals here.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 1:12:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Watanabe	Testifying for MCSA - Moanalua Campus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of establishing a workforce readiness program with the DOE to provide opportunities for students to earn optional degrees and/cerificates.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:39:22 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J.Leong	Testifying for McKinley CSA - Moanalua Campus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HDB1561!

March 11, 2022

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Dear Honorable senators,

My name is Diane Omura, an ELL(English Language Learner) teacher at the McKinley Community School for Adults, writing in support of HB1561. We serve adults learners with various educational needs and provide resources for success. The students in my program must first learn and master English. However, since many have moved here because of job opportunities, there is an increasing demand for workforce readiness programs. HB 1561 is a response to such needs. An investment in this bill will in time, benefit our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Omura

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad H Okinaka	Testifying for Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Workforce readiness programs are important for the State of Hawaii. Students need to learn "how to work" and this bill will provide opportunities for students to earn degrees, diplomas and industry-recognized certificates. I believe that this bill will strengthen Hawaii's Workforce which will lead to better lives for ALL of us.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 1:35:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Sanpei	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Ryan Sanpei and I am in support of HB1561.

The one thing that I hear from the Workforce time and time again is that the new hires are not "ready to work". Many of the employees apply with the necessary educational requirements, but lack the soft and hard skills that are necessary for being a good employee. HB1561 will help to support many students by providing them with the opportunity to receive the necessary entry level training for employment throughout the State.

Thank you for your time!

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:34:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Callahan	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill as I have first hand knowledge of the benefits of the workforce readiness programs offered at McKinley CSA. Our Adult Basic Education and English Language Acquisition classes, substitute teacher training and educational assistant certification exams have a direct impact on employment and employability for our population.

Additionally, we facilitate workforce readiness through our partnerships with HiEmployment, Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services, Hale Kipa and others.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 2:03:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane Yonamine	Testifying for McKinley Community School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it provides essential funding to the Adult Community Schools.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:35:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cailee Estes	Testifying for MCSA-Kauai Campus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We feel that it is so important to be able to offer the workforce readiness diploma program here at the McKinley Community School for Adults- Kauai. We are passionate about creating opportunities for all of our students and helping them grow and this program allows us to do so. By providing this opportunity, we will be able to continue to support the communities we love.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 12:46:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raden Nagamine	Testifying for Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which will provide alternatives for students to continue their education and work readiness skills.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:36:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Rokuta	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Many students will benefit from the programs offered at McKinley Community School for Adults.

We have students who have gotten jobs, both full-time and part-time.

Thus, they are contributing members of our community and state.

Thank you.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:00:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jensen Apana	Testifying for Department of Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Act to establish a workforce readiness program within the department of education's community school for adults program. As a current HSE teacher, I believe there should be an alternative for those that have trouble attaining their selected HSE. With the understanding of a program that will implement supports a career-ready workforce, I feel it would provide current and future learners the opportunity to achieve success towards adulthood.

Mahalo!

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 12:21:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilian Yamasaki	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives Woodon and Kapela,

My name is Lilian Yamasaki and I work as a part-time ESL teacher at McKinley Community School for Adults. I am writing in support of HB1561 HD1 and urge passage of this measure.

The demographics of our school has changed over time, but with the pandemic there has been a shift in our student population. Students are more eager to transition into other work opportunities, given that some of their previous ones have closed. And because these are immigrant students, their language and work readiness skills are critical to finding and maintaining employment.

This measure will help schools like ours to obtain the governmental support to help our students attain their goals and become contributing members of our Hawaii community. I humbly ask for your support.

Mahalo,

Lilian Yamasaki

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:52:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amie Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1561 because it will provide opportunities for our adults to obtain the necessary skills to improve their lives, support their families, and contribute to the community. Thank you for your consideration and approval of HB1561!

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 2:25:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1561 because it will provide opportunities for students in high school or adult based community schools to earn a workforce development diploma which teaches the basic skills to become successful employees and contributors to the community.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:53:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Ulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nō,

As our community population continues to change due to the influx of islanders with no formal education, it is necessary to provide them with as many learning opportunities as possible to assist with building a successful life here in Hawai‘i, such as finding and keeping much needed employment. Many of our parents from the southern Pacific islands need help with filling out applications, which are in English, and whom do not read or write in English. McKinley School for Adults can provide such help for our community members who need these services to help them provide for their children. Please support this bill by voting yes. Let’s help our parents succeed in finding and keeping valuable work opportunities so that their children can also learn and understand the value of work through their parent successes. The downstream consequences will benefit all in our communities!

Mahalo nui loa,

Tiare Ulii

VP at inner city school - witness to many parents needing assistance with their English in filling out school forms.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 2:17:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taijen Chen	Testifying for MCSA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tai Jen Chen. I support HB 1561 because it gives students, like me an opportunity to learn skills for a good job. Thank you!

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:14:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Haia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:44:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lester Tanji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

High school or post secondary education should not be the last chance for anyone to further their life goals. In the effort to perpetuate a productive citizenry, it is imperative that continued opportunities be afforded to all interested persons who have readied themselves for change.

As a past educator in the State of Hawaii, I have seen students who, only after encountering life-changing situations, have come to realize the importance of education in furthering their goals. There is no age limit to learning and building a better life. Please support HB1561.

Mahalo.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:33:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle yamamoto	Testifying for Mc Kinley community school @moanalua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HM 1561 that establishes a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associates degrees, workforce development degrees, preapprenticeship certificates and other industry recognized certificates..

Michelle Yamamoto

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:07:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Tanney	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have been an English instructor at McKinley Community School for Adults for 12 years and I urge you to support HB1561 so we can continue to serve members of the community who so greatly need English language and workplace readiness training.

I know we help change the lives of our students and their families for the better.

Thank you for the vital work you do,

Paul Tanney - Instructor -

McKinley Community School for Adults

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:30:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Matsuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1561

Friday, March 16, 2022

In support of HB1561

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Senator Michelle N. Kidani and Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am testifying in support of HB1561. Please support this bill as it will benefit both of our Waipahu and McKinley Community School for Adults students with opportunities for workforce readiness.

Thank you for your time and consideration to support HB1561.

Sincerely,

Tina Matsuo

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:46:11 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1561 and its effort to provide our local communities a concrete and meaningful pathway to a higher quality of life and work. This bill empowers community schools and builds capacity within our state system to its serve citizens and future generations.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:30:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eren Avegalio	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults-- Mckinley ca	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1561. With the way the world is changing, students need options and programs to support entering into the workforce. There is a greater need for building job readiness skills and work ethics. Our students can greatly benefit from a workforce readiness preparation program. House Bill 1561 will meet this need. I support House Bill 1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:39:19 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Lum	Testifying for Waipahu Community School for Adults - Waipahu Camp	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the Waipahu Community School for Adults and our students, I am writing in support of HB1561.

As a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Hawaii Adult Schools are tasked with the very important mission of helping our students obtain employment or further their education.

Currently, the adult schools receive a limited amount of State General Funds to cover the operational costs of our campuses on every island in the State. For many years we have maintained our salaried positions with these funds but have not been able to create a new, unique salaried position that would help develop career and work opportunities for our students. The extra positions afforded to us in this Bill will allow us to create unique and innovative educational opportunities for our students to enter or reenter the workforce.

Thank you for allowing this time to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:44:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer L Sakurai	Testifying for Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1561

On behalf of the Waipahu Community School for Adults and our students, I am writing in support of HB1561.

As a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Hawaii Adult Schools are tasked with the very important mission of helping our students obtain employment or further their education.

Currently, the adult schools receive a limited amount of State General Funds to cover the operational costs of our campuses on every island in the State. For many years we have maintained our salaried positions with these funds, but have not been able to create a new, unique salaried position that would help develop career and work opportunities for our students. The extra positions afforded to us in this Bill will allow us to create unique and innovative educational opportunities for our students to enter or reenter the workforce.

Thank you for allowing this time to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:14:08 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ROBERTA TANAKA	Testifying for McKinley Community School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB1561. This bill will offer the young people of Hawaii a program to better prepare themselves for the workforce and with the added support of a program coordinator it will ensure that the program will keep evolving positively.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:57:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Tom	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1561 to encourage expanding the Community Schools curriculum. Many people have called into the McKinley Community School to inquire about classes beyond ESL and GED, and were saddened by the news that we are limited in our offerings.

Therefore, I am submitting my testimony in favor of this bill.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:04:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherman WK Tom	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1561 to encourage expanding the Community Schools curriculum. Many people have called into the McKinley Community School to inquire about classes beyond ESL and GED, and were saddened by the news that we are limited in our offerings.

Therefore, I am submitting my testimony in favor of this bill.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:57:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Hirose	Testifying for McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB1561. Workforce readiness programs are win-win-win: good for individuals, good for communities, and good for government finances. And the return on investment is quick, often immediate, and typically long-lasting. Seneca said, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." Help us prepare these students and we will all share in their good luck. Thank you.

I fully support HB 1561 establishing a workforce readiness program in the state that would operate under the Community Schools for Adults. Given the widely acknowledged need for a robust workforce in the state of Hawai‘i, and recognizing that preparation for such a workforce must extend beyond the scope of a high school diploma or college degree, I believe this bill would allow a wide range of individuals preparation opportunities for employment that would greatly improve the size and quality of the workforce.

HB 1561 would enhance opportunities for to gain Associate’s degrees and other certificates and diplomas recognized by industries to fulfill the needs of the state of Hawai‘i as the twenty- first century progresses. In light of the rapidly changing world of technology in industry and other fields, it would support the development of preparation for employment in capacities and industries that that are perhaps not even yet in existence in 2022. Further, the bill provides for two full time workforce readiness coordinators who could serve in a variety of ways to serve as liaisons with industry to ensure that the workforce readiness program functions on the leading edge of the employment needs in Hawai‘i.

In summary, I believe HB 1561 provides the means for a necessary and vital program to serve the citizens of Hawai‘i.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey B. Roberts

March 15, 2022

LATE

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:50:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Munni Subramanian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I totally support the bill, because it will help the adult school students.

LATE

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:59:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KURT GINOZA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It will help our communities statewide to help with employability of all citizens.

LATE

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:01:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/16/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fanar Jarjees	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1561

LATE