



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

February 23, 2022

Written Testimony Only

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1561, HD1

Measure Title: Relating to Schools
Report Title: Department of Education; Adult Education; Workforce Development Diploma
Description: Establishes a workforce readiness diploma program within the department of education adult community schools program. Appropriates funds.

McKinley Community School for Adults strongly supports HB1561, HD 1 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.

Hawaii Labor Market Dynamics reports that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has identified 11 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 are 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, SD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen H. Sanpei".

Helen H. Sanpei, Principal

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
February 25, 2022

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Luke 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

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pat Anbe	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

HB1561

Dear House of Representatives Finance Committee,

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



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) 594-0540

February 23, 2022

Representative Sylvia Luke, House Finance Chairperson
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, House Finance Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB1561, Relating to Education

Honorable Representative Luke and Honorable Representative Yamashita:

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark T. Nakamura".

Mark T. Nakamura,
Vice Principal, MCSA



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 25, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

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

HB 1561 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, 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 recommends 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 in 2020-21. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1561, H.D. 1

February 25, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 308 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.



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

Date: 02/25/2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

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 in support of HB 1561, HD1.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 25, 2022, at 11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

RE: HB 1561, HD1 Relating to Education

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, 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.



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

February 23, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Finance

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

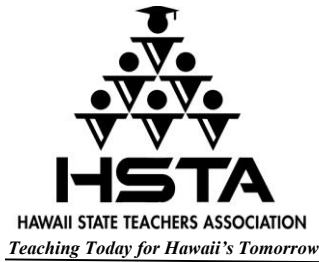
Hearing: 11AM, Friday, February 25, 2022, House Conference Room 308

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.

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**.



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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 1561, HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke, 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.**



House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair
Friday, February 25, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.
Via Videoconference

RE: HB 1561 HD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) Hawaii supports HB1561 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: 2/23/2022 11:54:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ROBERTA TANAKA	McKinley Community School	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this measure to give students an opportunity to succeed in society.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:56:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tina Matsuo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB1561

Friday, February 25, 2022

In support of HB1561

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

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 an opportunity for workforce readiness and opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration to support HB1561.

Sincerely,

Tina Matsuo

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:04:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kylee Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 12:06:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lance Jyo	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1561. 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). HB1561 enables CSA's to continue to provide our Workfroce Readiness Efforts. Mahalo.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:11:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Sanpei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Ryan Sanpei and I am in support of HB1561 HD1.

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!

Ryan

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:18:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Raden Nagamine	Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1561 that will continue to provide workforce readiness skills for high school and adult students to enter the job market.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:19:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Callahan	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 12:26:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cailee Estes	MCSA- Kauai Campus	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 12:42:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Pangilinan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB1561 HD1 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: 2/23/2022 12:45:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dawn Watanabe	MCSA - Moanalua Campus	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the adult Workforce Readiness Program. The opportunities for students to earn alternate degree(s) enabling them to be highly employable are invaluable.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:47:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andy Ngo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1561 HD! 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: 2/23/2022 12:49:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of the Bill. I live on the Waianae Coast along with other family members, neighbors, and friends. Many of them are unemployed and in need of jobs. This program will certainly help many of them find a job. Please help us. Thank you.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:56:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scot Seo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the effort the community schools took to prepare students for their career pipeline with the necessary skills and certifications required for entry into the workforce. Students on kauai, Maui, the island Hawaii are remotely located and in need of these services to ensure that they can secure jobs to support themselves and their families.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:58:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aukai Pia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because the adult education Work Readiness program will help us get ready for jobs that available. McKinley Community School for Adults has campuses on every island and is very accessible. I am now attending classes to improve my math so that I can join the Carpenter's apprenticeship program.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:16:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Fukumoto	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 1:18:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tanya Hall	HIDOE	Support	No

Comments:

I support House Bill 1561 which establishes with the Department of Education community schools for adults a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn certifications and diplomas that would help them get a job, especially in today's society. As a current educator, I see a need for this important program now and in the future as the COVID-19 pandemic has had disastrous results for student graduation rate in Hawaii. The workforce readiness program will provide many individuals with the hope of receiving the type of instruction they need to further themselves in the workplace industry. Please approve House Bill 1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:38:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eren Avegalio	McKinley Community School for Adults-- Mckinley campus	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 1:47:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I totally support this bill. Offering different options to better ones self is always a positive.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:00:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fanar Jarjees	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1561

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:03:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarmina Scales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because passing this will help our students and community members become more productive and efficient members of society. By establishing a workforce readiness program our students are presented with an opportunity to become more successful in life.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:06:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Silva	Individual	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 2:16:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sheldon Tawata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sheldon Tawata, coordinator for Kapi‘olani Community College’s (KapCC) Kuilei Outreach Program, and I am in support of HB 1561 HD1. The University of Hawai‘i Community College (UHCC) offers post secondary education opportunities to all that meet the open door admissions policy, that includes being at least 18 years of age, **OR** have a high school diploma, **OR** have a high school equivalent such as the GED or HiSET. The UHCCs provide a wide range of options (accredited and/or industry recognized) to meet the needs of our community that ranges from short-term non credit certifications to Associate degrees.

As an active community partner with the McKinley Community School for Adults (MCSA), I’ve witnessed first hand the benefits clients receive when provided purposeful and appropriate support that bridges them to a post-secondary education and/or to the workforce. In support of this positive momentum from the MCSA, now more than ever, the state of Hawai‘i needs to contribute to this thriving workforce with qualified applicants to carry out jobs that support our communities and families. It is critical that we need to expand beyond our mindset where it is not just those with bachelor’s degree who can contribute to the state’s economic growth but anyone who possesses the grit and mindset to elevate the quality of life we all deserve.

The Bill suggest through collaborative partnerships that we can design amazing opportunities for the people of our State. HB 1561 HD1 creates a platform to thoughtfully design and implement the Workforce Readiness Program that will produce quality workers, which supports the state’s investment into our own people and not rely on skilled workers outside the state of Hawai‘i. The Workforce Readiness Program will also change a mindset that promotes continued professional growth, which in turn will create a generational shift on how our community views continued post-secondary education.

The approval HB 1561 HD1 signifies an investment in our future to which comes with my full support. It will be exciting to see how the state’s workforce will look as a result of the passing and support of HB 1561 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to share.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:19:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Rokuta	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of HB 1561.

Our students receive opportunities to be a contributing member of their communities and for the state of Hawaii.

It is my belief that the programs offered at the adult community schools will enhance their learning enabling them to feel positive about their future.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:19:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Taijen Chen	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

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

Thank you!

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:44:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Tanney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Paul Tanney and I support HB1561 because it provides vital training for students to gain employability skills to enter the workforce.

Thank you,

Paul Tanney - Instructor - MCSA

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:50:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eric Balinbin	MCSA Maui	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill wholeheartedly.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 3:55:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
J.Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a 20 year employee in adult education, I fully support Bill 1561. I feel the program will contribute to providing the State of Hawaii with a qualified and able workforce.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 4:42:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dane Yonamine	McKinley Community School	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it provides essential funding to adult community schools.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 5:42:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacquelyn R Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB 1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 6:44:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jensen Apana	Individual	Support	No

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: 2/23/2022 7:49:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shelby Hamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members,

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: 2/23/2022 7:51:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karie Izuo	Individual	Support	No

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.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:05:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lester Tanji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an educator in the State of Hawaii, I have witnessed many of my students grow into productive citizens in this democratic society. For those students who have experienced seemingly insurmountable obstacles, it is imperative that they continue to be supported to the extent that they are able to become those citizens who will continue to perpetuate this democracy. Please support HB1561 HD1.

mahalo.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:18:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gladys Ozaki	Individual	Support	No

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. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1561.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:26:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Don Hirose	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in support of House Bill 1561 to establish workforce readiness programs in our adult community schools throughout the state.

I've been an English instructor at McKinley Community School for Adults since 2013 and have witnessed the positive impact our programs have had in getting students prepared for employment and then promoted once employed. Adult students learn and develop skills necessary to enter job-training programs, community colleges, or the workforce directly through continued education and guidance. Further, once employed, many of our students have moved on to better jobs or higher positions due to their acquisition of English and bilingual abilities. We've seen students working in Chinatown with very little English skills eventually reaching luxury retail in Waikiki and Ala Moana at stores such as Duty Free Shoppers or Fendi, all due to their mastery of English. This transformation is remarkable but not uncommon. Please assist future generations of adult learners the opportunity to realize their dreams and become better Hawaii residents by making HB 1561 a reality.

Mahalo,

Don Hirose

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 2:43:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amelia G. Jodar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aligning a workforce readiness program would ensure that students learn skills and earn credentials required by industry for employment after completion of the community school for adults workforce preparation program. This program will also benefit those students who are in correctional settings, helping them to be more ready for employment and be more successful in their re-entry.

I support HB 1561. Thank you.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 4:56:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dean Sakmoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a part-time teacher with the McKinley Community School for Adults, Moanalua Campus, and I support and recommend the approval of HB1561. I've worked with youths and adults at our school and I have first hand experience with students who have benefited from the various programs of Adult Education. Students who are able to participate in the Work Force Development Program will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be ready for employment in various trades in Hawaii and will have a chance to be productive members of our community. Mahalo.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 5:01:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Liane Okamitsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I support this bill because the programs it funds will help underserved populations in our community and provide needed opportunities for job and educational growth for all people and businesses in our community.

Mahalo!

Liane Okamitsu

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

February 24, 2022

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:10:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann Choi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support passing HB1561 to ensure adult educational programs for workforce development continue to ensure our community thrives with literate, responsible, and competent employees.

Mahalo for your attention to my testimony.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:54:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janna Cochran	MCSA - Maui	Support	No

Comments:

In Support.

February 24, 2022

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Finance

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

RE: H.B. 1561
Hearing: Friday, February 25, 2022, Room CR 308 & Videoconference 11:00 AM

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Good Morning Representative Luke, Representative Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance. 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 SB2188.

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.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 9:15:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Ginlack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1561 which establishes a workforce readiness program within the department of education's community school for adult program.

We can all agree in various ways the negative affect covid-19 had on our educational system. We must be willing to create, support and fund programs that will give our educational system a positive boost. I sincerely believe House Bill 1561 can and will provide that additional boost needed.

Thanks for your support and help

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 9:20:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Devin	MCSA Maui	Support	No

Comments:

In support

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:08:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Betty Osako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1561 because this will offer more as well as a variety opportunities for people of Hawaii to better their lives not to mention our communities.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:55:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KURT GINOZA	MCSA MAUI	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Job readiness and employability of any resident is vital to personal and community growth.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:10:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rhys Ragasa	McKinley Community School for Adults - Moanalua	Support	No

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.

HB-1561-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 9:24:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lehua Brown	Hawaii DOE Honolulu District	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I strongly urge you all to consider passing this House Bill in support of our community members who strive to be productive citizens and contributing members of society as our future workforce. This bill is an investment in today's youth and young adults who want to develop the necessary knowledge and skills and provides opportunity to secure a place in Hawaii's workforce for their future success. Mahalo for your consideration and support.

Lehua Brown