



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

**Date:** 02/08/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 1561 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.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1561 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 the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (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 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.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:33:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

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

### HB 1561 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee:

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

HB 1561 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 clarification that HB 1561 encourages the Department of Education to prepare and refer adult students to the UH community colleges for associate degrees and does not authorize Department of Education to award associates degrees.

UH notes that the HB 1561 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](http://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.



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 4, 2022

**Testimony in Support of HB 1561**

Measure Title: Relating to Education  
Report Title: Department of Education; Adult Education; Workforce Readiness Program; Establishment  
Description: Establishes within the department of education, a workforce development diploma, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates. Appropriates funds for the workforce readiness program and two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) adult workforce readiness program coordinator positions.

McKinley Community School for Adults strongly supports HB1561 to establish a workforce diploma program within the Department of Education's 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.

In its recent 2017 Hawaii Labor Market Dynamics, 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 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.

Sincerely,

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

Helen H. Sanpei, Principal



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 4, 2022

Representative Sylvia Luke, House Finance Chairperson  
Representative Justin Woodson, Education Chairperson

**Testimony in Support of HB1561, Relating to Education**

Honorable Representative Luke and Honorable Representative Woodson:

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1561

**February 8, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

House Bill No. 1561 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.



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 8, 2022

The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Woodson and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1561 Relating to Education

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **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. 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**

Sincerely,

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

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 7:31:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cary Miyashiro	Quad D Solutions	Support	No

Comments:

Committee,

There is an urgent need to prepare all of our citizens for the workforce especially those that are in the gap population. Some have dropped out of school while others are immigrants that are trying to make a new life and provide for their families. We must address the need of this special population that could become a burden on our economic system in Hawai'i. We must make use of our opportunity to support those that are struggling to better themselves. This bill will go a long way to support our friends and neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration

Cary Miyashiro

President, Quad D Solutions



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 1561 Relating to Education**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

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

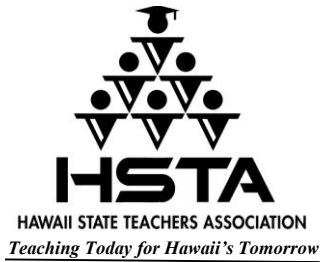
- Establishes within the department of education a workforce readiness program to provide opportunities for students to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates.
- Requires the department to designate schools, 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.



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 EDUCATION

RE: HB 1561 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1561** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Education

**Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair**  
**Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice-Chair**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.**  
**Via Videoconference**

### **RE: HB 1561, RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, 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 have supported workforce development in the past, through mentoring programs and other work-based learning initiatives.

This spring, SHRM Hawaii is launching the new HR Executive Leadership Program, which helps train the next generation of Hawaii's HR professionals. We have also partnered with Junior Achievement of Hawaii to bridge the gap between the skills employees need to enter the 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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:11:29 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:13:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Matt Wong	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation that will assist adult schools in bolstering their workforce development programs. There are countless individuals in our communities that are motivated to improve their lives and the lives of their families. This measure will support the efforts of those who's paths may not align with traditional K12 schooling.



**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:28:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thomas Pangilinan	Individual	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 todays society. As retired educator I have experienced the need for such program for a very long time and see this as an opportunity to help our communities.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:35:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Noel Richardson	Hawaii DOE	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB1561. Not every graduate will attend college. The ability to offer a program to ensure students acquire the skills necessary to be "work ready" is a crucial step in students to enter the work force upon completing the program situation of uncertainty due to the pandemic, even more so, m. Given the current this is vitally important. We have the utmost responsibility to ensure students are ready for either post opportunities, military service or immediate secondary educational employment. As such, please support HB1561..

Noel Richardson, Principal, Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:36:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

House Bill 1561

On behalf of the Waipahu Community School for Adults and our students, I am writing in support of House Bill 1561.

Currently, the Hawaii Adult Schools (McKinley Community School for Adults and Waipahu Community School for Adults) 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 as well as foster relationships with industry partners.

We at the adult school are tasked with the very important mission of helping our students obtain employment or further their education. We are a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). 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 House Bill 1561.

Sincerely,

Pat Anbe, Principal

Waipahu Community School for Adults

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:58:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 12:25:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We feel that it is so important be able to offer the workreadiness program to our students. We hope to be able to have this opportunity.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 12:32:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Eric Balinbin	MCSA Maui	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill wholeheartedly. As the Transition Coordinator at MCSA Maui, many students feel like they are walking around in circles, trying to figure out there next steps. Even with a HS Diploma, or Workforce Development Diploma our participants are still struggling to find jobs, make a living and stay in Maui. To me, it's a pretty simple formula, more access (to training) = more opportunity for our local families.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:12:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Chad H Okinaka	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

The creation of these Coordinator positions will increase the opportunities for students to earn higher level degrees and provide for valuable work experience and credentials. These positions will also allow schools to collaborate with the "workforce" so that schools can teach workforce skills and have graduates be better prepared for the world of work. Please support this bill.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:14:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Community Schools are a good option for those in need of furthering their skills to get a job or to go to college. Community Schools are very supportive to help those who need and want to better themselves and be productive contributing members of our society.



**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:22:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michele Fukumoto	Individual	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 we 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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:42:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tina Matsuo	Waipahu Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

HB1561

Tuesday, January 8, 2022

In support of HB1561

Department of Education; Adult Workforce Readiness Program; Establishment; Appropriation

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

I am a Program Coordinator at Waipahu Community School for Adults and testifying in support of HB1561.

Please support this bill as it will benefit adult education students with work force opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration to support HB1561.

Sincerely,

Tina Matsuo

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:59:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Andy Ngo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I belong to the Vietnamese community hear in Kalihi that needs this program to help my family and friends get a job. I support this bill so that we can help others in my community

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 2:30:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Eren Avegalio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of of HB1561. This will help support the needs of the students and community with establishing a workforce readiness program. This program will provide learning opportunities for students to get them ready for the workforce and/or higher education.

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Submitted on: 2/4/2022 4:00:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The job market and work requirements are changing...getting students prepared is vital..the HB1561 is going in the right direction in providing alternatives.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 8:40:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christine Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 1561

The Hawaii Adult Schools are a mandatory partner of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), and they play an essential role in supporting workforce and labor initiatives through providing educational and workforce opportunities. Adult Schools help members of our community upskill and gain the necessary education and skills needed to transition as well as meet personal and professional needs. Many in the community are dislocated workers, furloughed, and unemployed. Now more than ever, our Hawaii Adult Schools are needed to help restart our economy and get dislocated and unemployed persons back to work. As it is, Hawaii Adult Schools operate with limited funding. The passing of this bill will allocate a much-needed position to help both adult school programs meet the workforce needs of our community. I support this bill and appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 6, 2022

TO: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Education

The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Chair  
The Honorable Holt, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Economic Development

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

RE: HB1561  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, Room CR 309 & Videoconference 2:00 PM

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Good Afternoon Representative Woodson, Representative Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Education.

Good Afternoon Representative Quinlan, Representative Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development .

I am Deborah K. Miyao, a retired State of Hawaii Department of Education Educational Specialist in Adult Education and the Acting Adult Basic Education State Director. I strongly support HB1561.

A workforce readiness diploma program, by Hawaii's Community Schools for Adults (CSAs), would benefit adults who are 16 years of age or older, out of school youth, and 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 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**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 4:16:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shelby Hamamoto	Individual	Support	No

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, Aloha!



**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 5:06:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As ELA Coordinator for the Moanalua campus, bill HB1561 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 stands for.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:15:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gloria Spondike	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB1561. I believe that individuals who are trying to get their GED need to be supported and that can only happen by having adult schools or programs who work with adult schools to help these individuals. Not only that but by also having individual being given the opportunity to do training or a pre apprenticeship program it gives them skills they need to become a productive part of society.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:54:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**I am writing in support of House Bill 1561 which establishes a workforce readiness program within the department of education's community school for adult programs.**

**With the onslaught of covid-19 within our workforce economy the past two years, we need to continue to create, promote and establish programs that allows students to prepare for various opportunities that result in them becoming gainfully employed.**

**Even if they are pursuing an associate degree, pre-apprenticeship certificate or any type of certificate, that will be recognized by the work industry. Your effort and help in pass H.B. 1561 is greatly appreciated.**

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:42:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:17:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. I live on the Waianae Coast and there are many people our here that need jobs. This program would help many of my neighbors and friends. Please help us.

**HB-1561**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:32:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julie Dugan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As someone in the workforce development arena, this bill is very relevant. It appears that with these positions, more students would have the opportunity to develop the skills and credentials needed to make them more employable and competitive in the job market.

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Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:39:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 are available. McKinley Community School is very conveniently located and is one of the schools offering these work preparation classes. I am now attending classes to improve my math so that I can join the Carpenter's apprenticeship program.