



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Friday, March 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By
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College of Education
And
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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2359 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2359 SD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i system to establish in each county, K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

The University of Hawai'i, College of Education (COE) is committed to establishing an expanded cohort program. While the majority of COE programs are online and delivered statewide, we know that expanding our offerings is critical to building capacity on the neighbor islands and to increase the pipeline local educators. The COE will also work closely with the other Colleges at UHM, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and all UH system campuses in order to streamline programs for students pursuing undergraduate degrees in education and to stabilize the Department of Education's workforce.

The Dean of the University of Hawai'i COE and the Superintendent of the Department of Education serve as co-chairs of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC), established under HRS §304A-1202. This Committee, with representatives from all teacher preparation programs in Hawai'i, have devoted efforts to addressing the teacher shortage and building the teacher workforce in Hawai'i.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Date: 03/18/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Higher Education &
Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2359, SD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the University of Hawaii to establish in each county, K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. Requires interim reports to the Legislature prior to the Regular Sessions of 2023, 2024, and 2025, and a final report prior to the Regular Session of 2026. Repeals 12/31/2026. (SD1)

Department's Position:

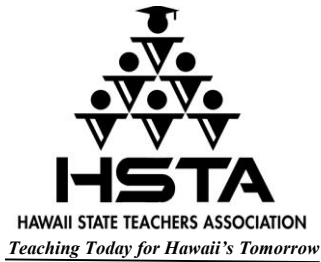
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2359, SD1, requiring the University of Hawaii to establish expanded teaching cohort programs for students pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

The expansion of teacher preparation programs in conjunction with the Department's high school education academies, internships, stipend opportunities, and targeted recruitment efforts will help to increase the pipeline of local teachers necessary to stabilize the Department's workforce.

Toward these efforts, the Department has worked closely with Hawaii's educator preparation programs through the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, established under Section 304A-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to encourage capacity building as outlined in the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee's five-year

strategic plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2359, SD1.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
& TECHNOLOGY

RE: SB 2359 SD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

FRIDAY, MARCH 18 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2359, SD1,** relating to the University of Hawai'i. This bill will require UH to establish in each county K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. With a sunset date of 12/31/26, the bill also requires interim reports prior to the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, and 2025, with a final report due prior to the regular session of 2026.

Seeing that UH and the DOE are in support of this bill, HSTA also supports the establishments of cohorts in each county that this bill would provide. Certainly, our aspiring teachers need more support with respect to availability of courses throughout the UH system, particularly on the neighbor islands. Additionally, we agree for the need for expanded K-12 teaching cohort programs, both for our current teachers, as well as those students working to become teachers.

It should also be noted, that the existing “Grow Your Own” program could be expanded to reach this goal and we would highly encourage this expansion in every county.

HSTA also feels it important to point out that at the heart of our teacher recruitment and retention difficulties is the fact that teachers in Hawai'i are dramatically underpaid, when cost of living is factored in, with too many taking second and third jobs, when we would rather have them have one job, as educators, to focus on their students, but still be able to afford to stay here in Hawai'i. We are also losing our local tenured teachers.

To provide a more structural support for teachers and aspiring teachers in Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to support this bill.