



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

Date: 02/11/2022

Time: 03:15 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Higher Education
Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2359 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 prior to the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, and 2025, and a final report prior to the regular session of 2026. Repeals 12/31/26.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2359, 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 (TECC), established under Section 304A-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to encourage capacity building as outlined in the TECC's five-year strategic plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2359.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Education
Friday, February 11, 2022 at 3:15 p.m.

By
Nathan Murata, Dean
College of Education
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2359 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kim and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2359, 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 of “grow our own” educators. The COE will also work closely with the other Colleges at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (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.

The College of Education, UHM, provides programs to students on all islands to become teachers; however, not all licensure options are available. The COE is supportive of expanding our program options to address the K-12 shortages; the COE would also support expanding this legislation to include preparing PK teachers, as well.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Education
Friday, February 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 2359 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

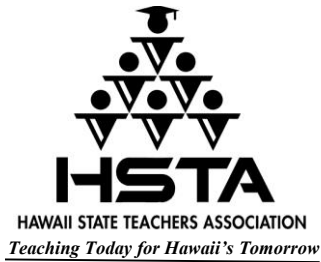
Chairs Kim and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2359. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports SB 2359 which seeks to address the shortage of teachers by requiring 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 UH Hilo School of Education (SOE) believes that establishing an expanded undergraduate cohort program in Hawai'i County will provide options for local residents to stay home and complete their studies. UH Hilo SOE works closely with local schools to address teaching needs. We currently offer a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and the Master of Education (M.Ed.) to supplement the undergraduate offering by the UH Mānoa College of Education, to provide a pathway for residents to be highly qualified and licensed teachers.

While graduating highly qualified, licensed and effective teachers is the primary goal of the UH Hilo SOE, building and fostering the Hawai'i Island teaching force is our natural target population. We support this bill to "grow our own" educators and expand the opportunity for people to teach in their communities without having to leave their communities.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER
EDUCATION AND EDUCATION

RE: SB 2359 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Kim and Kidani and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2359** 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.

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.

Despite this need, it is unclear whether this is something that necessarily needs to be in Session Laws, but rather perhaps a resolution asking for this, while still requesting the reports. It should also be noted, that the existing "Grow Your Own" program could be expanded to perhaps reach the same goal.

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.**