



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 10:05 a.m.

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

SB 2928 SD2 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 2928 Senate Draft (SD) 2 relating to Education. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the bill to establish a working group to study and develop an implementation plan for career pathways in the agricultural sector.

UH recognizes that agriculture is a critical sector for the state. UH President David Lassner identified agriculture and food among the key economic sectors that UH must contribute for a post-pandemic Hawai'i. UH will contribute through its leadership in workforce development, education and research excellence in its programs which provide education and training statewide.

UH will collaborate with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education and other stakeholders for review of prior research and plans, to define a study of workforce needs, and to develop plans for career pathways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

Date: 02/23/2022

Time: 10:05 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2928, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a working group to study and prepare an implementation plan for agricultural career pathways and report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2928, SD2, as it would enhance our current efforts being implemented in high schools through the Department's Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway in the Career and Technical Education program.

The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway prepares students to serve in high-wage and in-demand jobs as highly skilled and future-focused members of the workforce. Schools can choose to offer the following Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources programs of study, which were created to meet the needs of Hawaii's agriculture sectors as well as future workforce needs:

- Agriculture and Food Production Business;
- Animal Systems;
- Food Systems; and
- Natural Resources Management.

These programs of study facilitate post-secondary matriculation at the community colleges and universities within the University of Hawaii System. To ensure Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources alignment to post-secondary and workforce needs, a Pathway Advisory Council has been formed to advise on the standards associated with each course offered in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway. The Pathway Advisory Council is composed of industry professionals, post-secondary

instructors, secondary teachers, and an administrator from the post-secondary or secondary level. The new Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources programs of study will be available for schools to implement in School Year 2022-2023.

The Department has implemented the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway; created Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources programs of study; and formed an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway Advisory Council to advance the Department's workforce development efforts and support Hawaii's economic development and sustainability goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2928, SD2.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2928, S.D. 2

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Senate Bill No. 2928, S.D. 2, establishes a working group to study and prepare an implementation plan for agricultural career pathways; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the University of Hawai'i; and requires a report to the Legislature.

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.