



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

Date: 03/22/2022

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: SB 2928, SD3 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes an agricultural careers working group to study and prepare an implementation plan for agricultural career pathways. Requires reports to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD3)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2928, SD3, as it would enhance the Department's efforts in implementing the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway in the Career and Technical Education program.

The analysis of agricultural workforce needs and agriculture career pathways plan created as a result of the mandates within SB 2928, SD3 will inform the Department's Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Pathway Advisory Council as it makes recommendations regarding the programs of study in the pathway.

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. The following Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources programs of study, 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 the transition to post-secondary community colleges and universities within the University of Hawaii System.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2928, SD3.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

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

SB 2928 SD3 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 2928 Senate Draft (SD) 3 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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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
SENATE BILL NO. 2928, S.D. 3

March 22, 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.

Senate Bill No. 2928, S.D. 3, establishes an agricultural career 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 Department of Education; and requires reports 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.



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March 22, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2928, SD3
RELATING TO EDUCATION

Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2928, SD3, which establishes an agricultural careers working group to study and prepare an implementation plan for agricultural career pathways and report to the legislature.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce is a vital component for the future of Hawaii's agriculture sector. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawaii agriculture.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers, ranchers, scientists, inspectors, food producers, field technicians, natural resource managers, entrepreneurs.

The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators, and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011 to address Ag Labor. The Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made several recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "Increasing youth education and training".

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators could be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This was an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

In 2015, Hawaii State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an “implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of support for P–20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation.” SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education.

The proposed Working Group established in this measure will continue to implement strategies developed by the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board and P-20 Working Group by preparing an implementation plan for career pathways that will connect students to career exploration and development for employment in the agricultural sector.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.