



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 7, 2023

The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Kim and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB391 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE TRAINING.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB391**, which appropriates funds for University of Hawai'i Community Colleges Workforce Training.

For the past decade, Hawaii has been at the bottom of the country for employing people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). In recent years we have made strides as a state removing barriers to employment for individuals with I/DD by passing bills such as the income disregard (Act 155, 2019), which allowed individuals with I/DD to work and keep their Medicaid benefits. We ended minimum wage (Act 055, 2021) which ended the discriminatory practice of paying individuals with I/DD below our minimum wage laws in the state. And last year, we passed the Employment First Initiative (Act 308, 2022), committing to promote full integration of persons with a disability into the Hawai'i workforce.

This measure expands on that commitment by increasing opportunities for quality workforce education. Increased accessibility to training will promote a stronger workforce contribution from individuals with I/DD and can advance independence by increasing their ability to pursue decent employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB391**.

Sincerely,

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

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

Written Only

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/07/2023

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0391 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE TRAINING.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for University of Hawaii Community Colleges
Workforce Training.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports Senate Bill (SB) 391, which appropriates funds to support the workforce development programs of the University of Hawaii Community Colleges.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's support in increasing access to Early College courses and workforce training opportunities for high school students. The Early College program has provided high school students the means to obtain college credit and to gain the experience and skills necessary to succeed careers. Workforce training opportunities offered by the community colleges have provided high school students, especially those who are not planning to enroll in college immediately after high school, with the knowledge and skills necessary for employment. Additional funding will increase access to these programs and opportunities, enabling high school graduates to secure high-demand, high-wage jobs and to positively contribute to Hawaii's economy whether they pursue college (including technical education), military, and/or employment after high school.

Furthermore, SB 391 supports Goal 1.3 of the newly approved Board of Education Strategic Plan: "All students graduate high school prepared for college and career

success and community and civic engagement."

The Department respectfully requests that the passage of this bill not adversely affect the funding the Department currently receives for postsecondary and workforce development opportunities and the priorities of the Department's Board of Education-approved budget.

The Department defers to the University of Hawaii Community Colleges with regards to the use of the funds appropriated in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Erika Lacro

Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 391 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE TRAINING

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 391, which would utilize the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) as a channel to assist in stimulating and revitalizing Hawaii's economic recovery through the colleges' workforce development programs.

Unique to the University, UHCCs' mission includes workforce development and personal development for career mobility. UHCCs take seriously its responsibility to provide a trained workforce, offering occupational, technical and professional courses and programs to prepare students for immediate employment and career advancement. Through its seven campuses and six education centers throughout the state, UHCCs provide accessible and affordable options for education and training through its degree and certificate programs and non-credit workforce training programs. UHCCs offer a range of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs including healthcare, human services, skilled trades, business, technology and agriculture. Last year, in its degree and certificate programs, UHCCs served 7,623 students in CTE majors, offered 2,355 CTE classes and awarded 2,573 degrees and Certificates of Achievement. In its non-credit workforce training programs, UHCCs provided over 17,000 training opportunities, some leading to industry-based certifications including federally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Programs for 2,401 apprentices in the trades and healthcare.

As the UHCCs expand to serve students through Early College programs, this bill will provide needed resources to ensure all 7 community colleges can support high school students interested in gaining workforce skills through Early College. Early College offerings will be expanded to include credit-based and non-credit workforce training curriculum to move students into the workforce immediately after high school or to provide a faster track into credit Career & Technical Education degrees and certificates at the community colleges.

UHCCs are committed to meeting the state's workforce needs. This includes aligning UHCCs' CTE programs with current and forecasted needs for skills and certifications as well as the number of trained residents for workforce needs and employment opportunities.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 391, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program does not supplant any portion of the University's budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 391.



The Committee on Higher Education
February 7, 2023, 3:00PM
Room 229 & Videoconference

RE: **SB 391, Relating to the University of Hawaii Community College Workforce Training**

Attention: Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 391**, Relating to the University of Hawaii Community College Workforce Training Program.

The community college workforce training program provides practical experience focused on the skills and knowledge needed for a specific job, opening the door to gainful employment within a diverse range of occupations. Such training provides an alternative career path that does not rely upon for-credit college programs or degrees. This impactful program enables families to enter the workforce with practicable training that can be built upon to advance in the workplace and further educational opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
By
Stephen Schatz, Executive Director
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB391 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE TRAINING

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB391 relating to the appropriation of funds for the University of Hawai'i Community College workforce training program.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports SB391.

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges play an important role in workforce development and economic revitalization and growth for the State of Hawai'i. In particular, the Community Colleges provide workforce training opportunities to facilitate access to good jobs that lead to economic mobility and pay a living wage for local residents.

As our work in supporting the growth and scaling of dual-credit opportunities – including Early College – across the State has shown, high school students benefit when they are presented with opportunities to take college classes early. These classes build confidence in students' abilities, increase their college and career readiness skills, strengthen their relationships with UH/UHCC campuses, and provide them with momentum towards their future college and career goals – including, but not limited to, a postsecondary degree.

While the Legislature generously provides funding for credit-based Early College classes, no permanent funding is available for high school students to participate in non-credit workforce development and training programs offered by the UH Community Colleges. By appropriating funds for non-credit workforce training programs, more students will benefit from non-credit opportunities that support their path to good jobs here in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.