



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Nathan Murata, Dean
College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

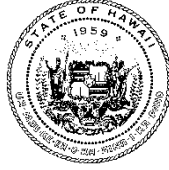
HB 1676 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1676, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022. The requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of 2022, requires the University of Hawai'i to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education in each county. However, no funding was provided.

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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, provided its adoption does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

PERSON TESTIFYING: Mitzie Higa, Licensing Specialist, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB)

DATE: February 7, 2024

TIME: 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 309 and Video Conference

TITLE OF BILL: HB 1676 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, University of Hawai'i; Teacher Cohort; Teacher Shortage; Expenditure Ceiling (\$)

PURPOSE OF BILL: Appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.

POSITION: Support

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology:

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports HB1676, relating to the University of Hawai'i.

HSTB loves the idea of expanding teacher cohorts for teacher candidates to be a part of in every county to grow our own teachers. The cohort approach in each county is a great step in the right direction and has proven to be very successful. Our aspiring teachers need more support with respect to availability of courses throughout the UH system, particularly on the neighbor islands.

Additionally, we agree about the need for expanded K-12 teaching cohort programs, both for our current teachers, as well as those students working to become teachers. This program needs to be funded in order for UH to be able to hire the FTE positions they need to facilitate each of these cohorts. HTSB also believes that the existing "Grow Your Own" programs should be expanded to reach this goal and we would highly encourage this expansion in every county.

HTSB believes that part of what the state needs to focus on for teacher recruitment and retention is the expansion and support available in various pipelines in our state that work with our state university systems, and the cohort model is definitely one of them. We need to support our educator pipeline that supports our aspiring teachers, and this bill needs to be funded to be part of that support.

To provide a more structural support for teachers and aspiring teachers in Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board requests that you **support** this bill.