



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 Education
Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 2:01 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 98 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO BECOME FULL-TIME TEACHERS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports SCR 98 SD1, which requests the Department of Education (DOE) to partner with the Hawai'i State Teachers Association and Teacher Education programs at local universities and colleges to provide pathways for school support personnel to become full-time teachers.

The UH recognizes the strong demand for qualified teachers in the DOE and the importance of providing strong educational pathways that lead local students to complete the required training to fill vacant teaching positions in Hawai'i. Developing clear teacher education pathways has been a focus for the UH, and we are reviewing ways to enhance the existing pathways to meet the state's teacher educator shortage.

The UH offers a number of programs including programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) such as a Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education, a Bachelor of Education in Special Education, a Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education and Hawaiian Immersion in a statewide hybrid format. Furthermore, UH West O'ahu offers an online Bachelor of Education which is available statewide. UH Hilo recently gained Board of Regents approval to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies this academic year to address teacher shortages on Hawai'i Island. The UHM also offers a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Early Education and the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Secondary Education.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum alignment among pre-college, two-year, and four-year providers can be complex and challenging to communicate to students and parents in a simple and straightforward manner. We acknowledge the need for co-designed, shared pathway maps that ensure students can move efficiently and effectively from the K-12 to post-secondary educational system and into a career with the requisite job skills needed to be successful in the workforce and earn a living wage job.

The UH are committed to continued collaboration with the DOE and Hawai'i P-20 in order to better serve the local communities in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 98 SD1.

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: 04/11/2024

Time: 02:01 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Resolution Title: SCR 0098, SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO BECOME FULL-TIME TEACHERS.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 98, SD1.

The resolution requests the Department to partner with the Hawaii State Teachers' Association (HSTA) and local teacher education programs to provide pathways for school support personnel to become full-time teachers.

This resolution aligns with the Department's 2023-2029 Strategic Plan, Priority II, Goal 2.1 to ensure that all students are taught by effective teachers who are committed to quality teaching and learning for all. Specifically, Department action item 5c., which calls for the expansion of grow-our-own efforts with local partners targeting educational assistants and other support staff to become teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 98, SD1.



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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **SCR98 SD1 - Requesting the DOE to partner with HSTA and teacher education programs to provide pathways for school-support personnel to become full-time teachers**

Position: **Support**

Hearing: **April 11, 2024, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** SCR98 SD1 which requests the Dept. of Education to partner with the Hawai'i State Teachers Association and teacher education programs at local universities and colleges to provide pathways for school-support personnel to become full-time teachers.

Teacher recruitment is vital to ensure that our keiki have the best possible education to prepare them for the future. To that end, any work that can be done towards increasing successful teacher recruitment, especially from within our own ranks, should be examined. Educational Assistants (EAs) and other support-personnel in our schools are vital to the functioning of our schools and the success of our keiki. Many EAs would be interested in becoming full-time teachers, however, life circumstances often make taking that next step an impossible task.

HSTA currently meets multiple times a year with the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) which brings together many of the stakeholders named in this resolution. HRS §304A-1202 specifically tasks the TECC to “(1) Work out problems related to the development of strong teacher training programs at accredited institutions of higher learning in Hawaii; and (2) Identify, study, and discuss educational problems or other educational matters of interest to the committee and to develop findings and make recommendations for the improvement of education in Hawaii.”

It should not be difficult for the DOE to partner with the TECC, which includes the HSTA and teacher education programs at local universities and colleges, to further explore pathways for school-support personnel to become full-time teachers.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.

SCR-98-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 7:58:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/11/2024 2:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Coombs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony in support of SCR98.

The teacher shortage at our public schools is a true issue that needs addressing. I have 4 children in elementary school, there has not been a single year since they started that at least one of them did not have a full-time substitute. Allowing teachers and young people more pathways to pursue degrees in education will only strengthen our communities and has no downsides.