



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

Date: 01/30/2025

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0864 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Allows newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in Department of Education-sponsored work-based learning programs.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 864, which provides workers' compensation coverage for new high school graduates participating in Department-sponsored work-based learning programs through July 31 of the graduate's high school graduation year.

The Department thanks the Legislature for extending workers' compensation coverage for new high school graduates participating in Department-approved paid or unpaid work-based learning experiences in the public or private sector. To support new high school graduates as they transition to their post-secondary plans, the Department offers work-based learning opportunities, including industry-led summer training and internships, as an extension of their Career and Technical Education program of study. Without workers' compensation coverage for new high school graduates, employers and organizations may be hesitant to host our young adults as interns.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's support of our work-based learning initiatives and our goal for all students to be globally competitive and locally committed. Preparing our students for the current and emerging workforce here at home will not only address our workforce needs, but will also lead to a thriving Hawaii.

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



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 309
Thursday, January 30, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.

To The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Chair
The Honorable Mike Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Labor

SUPPORT HB864 RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS HB864** which Allows newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in Department of Education-sponsored work-based learning programs.

The Chamber understands that the Department of Education is actively pursuing internship opportunities for students, including those who have recently graduated from high school. However, the department has encountered a challenge: once students graduate, they are no longer considered enrolled and therefore are not covered by workers' compensation while participating in department-sponsored work-based learning opportunities during the summer following graduation.

We believe this measure will benefit businesses that wish to bring students on board for work-based learning programs without incurring the additional cost of adding a temporary employee or intern to their workers' compensation liability.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT HB864**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.