



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

**Date:** 03/31/2025

**Time:** 10:02 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** HB 1345, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the Department of Education to subsidize all tuition and mandatory fees for a resident student enrolled in a four-year college campus of the University of Hawaii System with an education program or that offers an education degree for the semester or term that the student enrolls in a State-Approved Teacher Education Program under certain conditions. Effective 7/31/2050. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides the following comments on HB 1345, HD 1, SD 1.

The Department currently provides tuition stipends for University of Hawaii teacher education programs through various memorandums of agreement and funding provided through the Department's budget. Tuition stipend recipients commit to completing program requirements, attaining Hawaii licensure, and teaching in Hawaii public schools.

Should the intent of this bill be to provide broader tuition subsidies to teacher candidates, the Department would request additional positions and funding as long as it does not affect the Department's Governor-approved budget request.

The Department notes that the commitment term to working in a Department school (page 2, line 12) is unspecified. The Department would recommend a three-year commitment which is similar to other

scholarship stipend programs being administered by the Department.

With ongoing teacher shortage issues in Hawaii and throughout the nation, the Department supports efforts to help reduce the cost of teacher preparation. The Department respectfully requests continued funding for programs such as our Grow Our Own to maintain tuition stipends for candidates committed to working in our public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Monday, March 31, 2025, at 10:02 a.m.

By

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

HB 1345 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

While the University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of HB 1345 HD1 SD1 and is actively working on plans to recruit additional students to become teachers, the UH has concerns with the bill as currently written.

The successful collaboration between Kamehameha Schools and Chaminade demonstrates that when tuition assistance is offered, students are much more likely to pursue careers in teaching, thereby increasing the number of qualified educators in our state. Thus, some method of providing tuition assistance would benefit our teacher pathways. However, given that the newest version of the legislation would place the responsibility for payment on the Department of Education, we defer to their testimony regarding this measure.

The UH is actively working to create robust teacher education pathways and a comprehensive recruitment strategy to attract and retain future educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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### TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**Item: HB 1345, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Teacher Education**

**Position: Support with amendments**

**Hearing: Monday, March 31, 2025, 10:02 am, Room 211**

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports with amendments** HB 1345, HD1, SD1 which authorizes the Hawaii Department of Education to subsidize all tuition and mandatory fees for a resident student enrolled in a four-year college campus of the University of Hawaii System with an education program or that offers an education degree for the semester or term that the student enrolls in a State-Approved Teacher Education Program.

HB 1345, HD1, SD1 could help address a critical issue facing our state – our severe teacher shortage. By alleviating the financial burden of tuition, HB 1345, proposed SD1 could incentivize more individuals to pursue a career in education, thus increasing the pool of qualified teacher candidates. This, in turn, would help ensure that Hawai'i's keiki have access to a quality education.

We note however, the University of Hawaii has issued over \$106 million in board-approved non-resident tuition waivers and has issued more than \$62 million in system-wide scholarships.

We believe the University has the capability of issuing similar waivers or scholarships to all resident students enrolled in an education degree during their semester or term that they choose to complete the student teaching requirement necessary to earn a degree in education. Taking care of our local students and improving our recruitment of public school educators should be a top priority.

That said, we recommend an amendment that could strengthen the proposed language.

1. On line 10, change the word 'may' to 'shall'. This change will ensure the tuition waivers actually get implemented.

It is very important to retain local teachers that are trained here in Hawai'i. We recommend passage with amendments.

Mahalo.



**LATE**

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1345 HD1 SD1, RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION.**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1345 HD1 SD1, relating to teacher education. Pursuant to the Education plank of the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, we support initiatives aimed at reducing class sizes and investing in teacher training and development.

HB 1345 authorizes the Hawaii Department of Education to subsidize all tuition and mandatory fees for resident students enrolled in a four-year college campus of the University of Hawai'i System with an education program or that offers an education degree for the semester or term that the student enrolls in a State-Approved Teacher Education Program. This bill aims to address our state's severe teacher shortage by alleviating the financial burden of tuition for resident students, thereby incentivizing more Hawai'i students to pursue a career in education. Increasing the pool of qualified teacher candidates could also help in reducing class sizes for Hawai'i's keiki.

Investing in future educators is essential for ensuring that children in Hawai'i have access to well-trained teachers. This bill will help create a sustainable pipeline of qualified teachers committed to serving our community. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1345 HD1 SD1, relating to teacher education. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at [legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org).