

STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'aina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on S.B. No. 742 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING
Committee: LBT
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 224

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in support of S.B. No. 742 and defers to the Office of Enterprise Technology Services regarding the feasibility and cost of implementation.

As the office responsible for coordinating Hawai'i's early learning system, which includes several programs across multiple departments, EOEL is committed to improving data integration and collaborating on a centralized governance structure for data sharing among State agencies.

We appreciate being included in the working group and look forward to co-developing a system that improves data access, analysis, and sharing, and provides better information to inform policy decisions that lead to better outcomes for Hawai'i's children and families.

We are grateful for the Legislature's ongoing investment in our youngest keiki and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony in support of 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 Labor and Technology
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

By

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

SB 742 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is providing comments regarding Senate Bill 742, which seeks to establish a data-sharing and governance working group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, coordinated by the Chief Data Officer. The University recognizes the importance of enhancing data sharing across agencies to better understand the challenges and opportunities that our state faces.

The University of Hawai'i is invested in improving the outcomes of its graduates as they navigate Hawai'i's challenging economic landscape. Robust data-sharing agreements among the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, as mandated under HRS 27-7, already provide valuable insights into educational progress and workforce outcomes for UH graduates. These efforts, which also include our participation in the statewide 21st-Century Data Governance Data Task Force, exemplify our commitment to leveraging data for informed decision-making.

Access to data currently siloed in other state agencies could transform the University in its development of targeted programs that better align academic offerings with career pathways, leading to sustainable employment and affordable living in Hawai'i. For this reason, we support closing employment information gaps as proposed in Senate Bill 1491 Relating to Departmental Data Sharing, which will add the Department of Taxation to the list of state agencies sharing data through the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. It would allow the Department of Taxation to link wage information by social security numbers to UH education records.

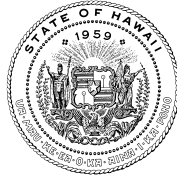
Furthermore, student basic needs—such as affordable housing, food security, and access to healthcare—are critical components of student success. The University is actively working to address these issues through our basic needs initiatives and most recently through participation in the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Basic Needs Academy. To effectively advocate for policy changes and secure necessary resources, it is crucial to have robust data on the extent of these needs and how they affect students' academic performance and overall well-

being. Expanding data sharing with other state agencies could allow us to better understand the challenges facing our students, particularly those who are struggling to meet basic needs and tailor our support services accordingly with one possible outcome being that students eligible for multiple benefits could experience more streamlined processing as opposed to separate applications and documents for individual agencies.

The University of Hawai'i stands ready to collaborate with our partners in state government to provide the data-informed insights needed to make decisions that will benefit both students and the broader community. This initiative aligns with the University's own goals to enhance student outcomes, improve post-graduate employment opportunities, and address the affordability crisis that so many young adults and families are facing in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAII' | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
Chief Information Officer
Office of Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY
Wednesday, January 29, 2025

SENATE BILL NO. 742
RELATING TO DATA SHARING

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) **supports** this bill to create a data sharing and governance working group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

Data sharing is critical for the state to improve service delivery across departments, support informed decisions of the legislature and the governor, enhance operational efficiencies, improve citizen services, enable faster response to disasters, and prevent fraud and abuse.

Governor Green's priorities such as housing, affordability, healthcare, homelessness, all require statewide shared data to enable evidence-based decisions. A data sharing working group with resources and tools to implement data sharing will benefit the entire state.

Data governance sharing tools and staffing resources will be needed to support this working group in implementing secured data sharing with proper access controls to meet compliance needs and in establishing a statewide shared data platform to support decisions and analytics.

An estimated one-time cost to establish and support the data working group would include data governance, a data sharing platform and data management at \$1.2 million; 6 FTE staff totaling \$590,000; and two years of consulting resources for implementation at \$850,000; for a total estimate of \$2,640,000.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

January 29, 2025

To: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair,
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 742 RELATING TO DATA SHARING

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This measure proposes to create a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group in the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) that would review the adequacy of departmental data sharing, address the State's capabilities regarding data sharing, and make recommendations on an ongoing data sharing governance structure and solicit input from various stakeholders, including labor and workforce organizations.

II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

The DLIR would participate and appreciates the intent of the working group. The DLIR defers to ETS on matters of administration and implementation. Currently, the DLIR does not collect data on occupation, pay rate, and work location on its unemployment compensation wage record system. While the DLIR operates various federally funded programs which relies on data from other governmental agencies to comply with the requirements of the federal programs. The collection of these data elements would require state funding for the development of an expanded system and administrative costs for personnel services and resources as well as a cost allocation agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL).

The US DOL has long interpreted methods of administration to require the confidentiality of UI information and to follow the congressional mandate that UI information be used only for the purpose for which it is directed. According to §383-95, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and §12-5-211 to §12-5-220, Hawaii Administrative Rules, disclosure of information from workers, employers, or other persons or groups in the course of administering the unemployment program shall

be held confidential and shall not be disclosed unless authorized requesting agencies have entered into a written agreement with the department.

Should the requirement to collect data on occupation, pay rate, and work location in the unemployment compensation wage record system be enacted, an information-sharing agreement with the various governmental agencies named in this bill would need to be negotiated and implemented. All expenses associated with providing the data must be reimbursed in accordance with federal requirements, and the actual costs of furnishing the information are dependent upon the terms of the final agreement executed between the various governmental agencies.

Additionally, although current estimates of the time and cost to implement changes on the legacy mainframe are not available at this time, the administrative burden of modifying the existing UI application, testing the modifications, and creating data interfaces would be an extensive undertaking and conflict with ongoing modernization efforts.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

The Workforce Development Council supports SB 742, Relating to Data Sharing.

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

We are Keith DeMello and Tuia‘ana Scanlan, members of the State of Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council (WDC) delegated with the authority to represent the WDC’s legislative policy positions. Pursuant to [HRS Chapter 202](#), the WDC is an advisory commission comprised of both public and private-sector representatives selected by the Governor to serve on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of workforce development programs in Hawai‘i and how to support economic development throughout the state.

The WDC strongly supports SB 742, which establishes a data sharing and governance working group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, as integrated data systems are critical to addressing Hawai‘i’s workforce challenges. This was a need that was emphasized at the recent Workforce Synergy Summit in December 2024 as essential for the success of action plans under the Hawai‘i State Workforce Unified Plan’s Four Pillars:

Pillar #1: Alignment with Economic Growth

The proposed data system would provide crucial insights into labor market trends, helping us better understand and address issues of labor shortages, living wages, and economic diversification. This aligns with our goal of connecting economic development with workforce development to create sustainable career pathways.

Pillar #2: Education and Training Alliances

The proposed governance structure would strengthen these connections, allowing us to better evaluate the effectiveness of training programs and ensure they align with actual workforce needs. This supports our goal of building stronger bridges with Hawai‘i’s educators and training providers.

Pillar #3: Inclusivity and Equity

A comprehensive longitudinal data system would help identify gaps in service delivery and measure the effectiveness of efforts toward meaningful integration and collaboration among all stakeholders in the workforce development space.

Pillar #4: Workforce Synergy

A unified data governance structure would facilitate the collaboration we seek to foster among workforce development stakeholders.

We also view SB 742 as a crucial step toward creating a more responsive and effective workforce development system. By establishing a robust governance structure for data sharing, Hawai'i can better:

- Track the effectiveness of education and workforce programs;
- Identify emerging trends and opportunities in our labor market;
- Make data-informed decisions about resource allocation; and
- Ensure accountability in workforce development initiatives.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 742, as it will provide the data infrastructure needed to better serve Hawai'i's workforce needs and support economic growth across our islands.

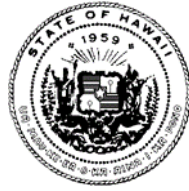
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith DeMello
Member, WDC

Tuia'ana Scanlan
Member, WDC

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

January 28, 2025

TO: The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: SB 742 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING.

Hearing: January 29, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) defers to the Office of Enterprise Technology Services and supports this measure. DHS will participate in the working group. While sustaining appropriations are needed to support the vast scope of identified work, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this bill not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: Establishes a data sharing and governance working group within the office of enterprise technology services. Appropriates funds.

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



Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Labor and Technology
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 3:00 PM

By

Stephen Schatz, Executive Director
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB742 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB742 relating to data sharing across state agencies and establishing a permanent data sharing and governance working groups within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) commends the Legislature for its interest in managing governmental data stores to provide information which allows the state to understand and work to improve Hawai'i residents' longitudinal education and workforce outcomes.

The Hawai'i Data eXchange Partnership (DXP) is a partnership of five state agencies: the Department of Education (DOE), University of Hawai'i (UH), Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), Department of Health, and Department of Human Services. This group governs Hawai'i's cross-agency, Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) that links information on individuals from infancy through early learning, K-12 and postsecondary education, and into the workforce. Since 2010, under the management of Hawai'i P-20, the DXP has established several successful data sharing agreements, strong data governance and security policies/processes, effective identity matching programming, and a targeted research and policy agenda. (More information available at: <https://www.hawaiidxp.org/>)

Hawai'i P-20 appreciates the focus on using data to inform actions around achieving living wages for the residents of Hawai'i. This aligns with work already being done through the Hawai'i Graduates for Hawai'i's Future (HGHF). HGHF is the commitment from the P-20 Council, consisting of education, business, policymakers, and community leaders, to work



collaboratively to align educational programs with workforce needs and economic development in the state. Under the P-20 Council's leadership, there are high-wage, high-skill, high-demand areas of focus to track postsecondary graduates to Hawai'i's workforce: Healthcare, Information Technology, Education, and Skilled Trades. Link to HGHF: <https://hawaiigraduatesforhawaiisfuture.org/goal/goal-4/>

SB742 states that additional data sharing could link high school graduates directly to workforce data. DLIR Unemployment Insurance (UI) is generally the data source used for linked workforce data in Hawai'i. However this data is collected to determine unemployment benefits and is incomplete when used for workforce outcomes. It does not include information on those individuals who are employed by the Federal government, self-employed, or work as part of the cash economy. The UI data can also only be matched by Social Security Number (SSN). Our current system can track UH graduates into the workforce, but not high school graduates who directly enter the workforce, as the DOE does not collect SSNs. Other states and jurisdictions have endeavored to link driver's license information to students and their employment outcomes, but we are not aware of a comprehensive solution.

One promising effort to close employment information gaps is reflected in SB1942, which would add the Department of Taxation to the list of state agencies sharing data through the SLDS via HRS 27-7. It would allow the Department of Taxation to link wage information by SSNs to UH education records.

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



info@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

January 28, 2025

Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino,
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

And

Honorable Senator Chris Lee,
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

And,

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology,

Regarding: **Support for SB742 Relating to Data Sharing**

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of SB742, which establishes a working group to create a durable, cross-agency governance structure to oversee a statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) that links K-12 education and workforce data.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities which in turn, build the conditions for all students in Hawaii to thrive.

In the face of an affordability crisis, Hawaii must better support young people to enter local jobs that enable them to survive and thrive in the state for years to come. Forty-two percent of residents are unable to afford basic necessities, and a substantial number of college graduates find themselves underemployed five years post-graduation.¹ The Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative recently released a report which estimates that over the next decade, nearly 30% of new workforce entrants in our state will be left "without viable opportunities to build a sustainable future."²

In response to such challenges, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) has invested heavily in career pathways programs and academies, and community partnerships to offer work-based learning opportunities have grown in recent years. At the same time, Hawaii lacks a unified data system that can track and analyze student progress across K-12 and into the

¹ Burning Glass Institute and Strada Institute for the Future of Work, Talent Disrupted: Underemployment, College Graduates, and the Way Forward, 2024.

² Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative, From Crisis to Opportunity: Building Hawai'i's Workforce Resilience, January 2025.



workforce. The result is that leaders and policymakers must cobble together disaggregated information to assess the impact of such programs on students after they graduate.

To address this, SB742 lays the foundation for a centralized data sharing and governance framework, creating opportunities to:

- **Improve decision-making** by linking cross-agency data to measure the effectiveness of education and workforce initiatives;
- **Address gaps in data collection**, such as tracking high school graduates who attend out-of-state colleges or join the military;
- **Bolster sustainability** by formalizing a centralized coordinating agency / governance structure and developing guidelines related to new challenges such as the impact of artificial intelligence, and;
- **Increase transparency** by establishing processes for sharing findings with key stakeholders and mechanisms to incorporate public voice.

There are several foundational pieces in Hawaii’s data landscape that will enable SB742 to be effective, including a codified SLDS and a strong track record of prioritizing disaggregated student data, important for understanding and addressing inequities in student outcomes. However, the data system’s output could have far broader-reaching implications and is not meeting the potential demonstrated by innovative systems in other states like Kentucky, California or Rhode Island. These states have seen the transformative impact of centralized data sharing on cost savings and improved policy insights and public trust.

California’s Cradle-to-Career Data System³, for example, provides an accessible platform for policymakers and the public, enabling real-time insights, allowing more responsive adjustments. Similarly, Kentucky and Washington’s governance models emphasize cross-sector collaboration which can reduce inefficiencies while incorporating a broad spectrum of voices, which the proposed system under SB742 seeks to emulate. Hawaii has a unique opportunity to take its current cross-agency data governance policy, strengthen it to include national best practices, and codify it in statute so that it is sustainable across administrations.

By passing SB742, Hawaii can take a proactive step toward addressing the gaps in our data systems, fostering greater equity, and ensuring that our education and workforce initiatives support a thriving and resilient state. Thank you for your consideration of this critical legislation. I respectfully urge the committee to advance SB742 and help Hawai‘i build the foundation for a more informed, collaborative, and effective future.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Nakanishi-Stanis', written in a cursive style.

Erica Nakanishi-Stanis
Advocacy Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

³ AB 132: California Cradle-to-Career Data System Act ([Code 10853](#))



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
Wednesday, January 29, 2025; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0742, RELATING TO DATA SHARING.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0742, RELATING TO DATA SHARING.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would establish a data sharing and governance working group within the Office of Enterprise Technology, to be coordinated by the Chief Data Officer.

Because the majority of our patients are Medicaid recipients, reimbursement for services provided at FQHCs is extremely complex given the multiple streams of funding received from the federal and State governments. The availability of funding is often volatile due to changes in federal and State laws as well as the manner in which these laws are implemented and enforced. In this environment, it is not only prudent but necessary for the State to seek new sources of funding and devise creative ways of capturing and securing resources.

Be that as it may, HPCA notes that the Legislature approved House Bill No. 2482, Conference Draft 1, which was enacted as Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016. This law broadened the scope of health and health data and other information submitted to SHPDA.

Among other things, the Committee on Conference reported the following:

"Your Committee on Conference finds reporting health care services claims and payment information to . . . [SHPDA]. . . would support the collection and analysis of medical treatment claims and payment information. This, in turn, would promote transparency in the health care sector and support public policy decision making. . . Your Committee on Conference intends for this measure to facilitate the collection and analysis of information relating to the provision of health, dental, and prescription drug benefits, enrollment data, claims reimbursement, and any other information required by . . . [SHPDA]. . . to determine health benefit costs. . . Your Committee on Conference further notes that in gathering and analyzing health information and claims data, it will be of critical importance to preserve privacy and maintain the security of patient information, patient identifiers, and other protected information. . . ."
[Emphasis added.]

As noted by the Conference Committee, data sharing is vital but extremely complex. Not only does this involve the development of infrastructure and software to facilitate the flow of information, but additional care must be given to preserve the privacy interests of the general public.

Because of this, the establishment of a public/private entity proposed in this bill would ensure that the affected agencies and stakeholders are able to find practical solutions to problems as traditional modes of communication are modernized in the 21st century.

Accordingly, the HPCA respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



TIME/DATE: 3:00 PM , Wednesday, January 29, 2025
PLACE: Room 224
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
BILL: SB 742, Relating to Data Sharing
POSITION: Support

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee!

My name is Bill Kumagai and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai‘i Government (THG), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support state government’s efforts to modernize its business processes and IT systems to create a more responsive state government, which ultimately benefits all Hawai‘i residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

Over the past several years, THG has consistently advocated for bills that enhance efficiency and streamline operations within state government. This has included our support for the bill to establish the role of the Chief Data Officer.

SB 742 aligns with our ongoing support of data management across various state entities. THG believes that data that can be securely shared across state government departments will enable state leaders and lawmakers to make more informed, data-driven policy and program decisions. As SB 742 proposes, establishing a permanent working group to coordinate inter-departmental data sharing and governance within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services is a critical first step to this transformational process.

THG would be glad to provide any additional insights on this issue. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Bill Kumagai
Executive Director
Transform Hawai‘i Government
email: bkumagai@transformhawaii.gov | (203) 918-5283
web: www.TransformHawaiiGov.org



Testimony in Support of SB 742

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members,

My name is Matt Stevens, and I am the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative (HWFC). With 15 years of experience in cross-agency data collaboration, sharing, and governance, I am testifying today in strong support of **SB742**, which establishes a **Data Sharing and Governance Working Group** within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. This is a bold and necessary step for ensuring Hawai'i's education and workforce systems work together to address the state's affordability crisis.

Why SB742 is Essential

As detailed in HWFC's recent workforce report, [*From Crisis to Opportunity: Building Hawai'i's Workforce Resilience*](#), Hawai'i faces an urgent workforce crisis. Nearly 30% of new workforce entrants in the coming decade will lack viable opportunities to build sustainable futures at home. Addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions, and a unified SLDS is a key lever for change.

Despite important investments by the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) in career pathways and work-based learning, Hawai'i currently lacks the ability to track student outcomes comprehensively from education through employment. This data gap limits the ability of policymakers to assess program effectiveness, identify equity gaps, and make data-informed decisions that will improve workforce development outcomes.

The language of SB742 recognizes that Hawai'i's fragmented data systems hinder our ability to understand and address critical workforce challenges. As the bill highlights, gaps in our current data infrastructure—such as tracking high school graduates who attend out-of-state colleges or directly enter the workforce—make it difficult to assess whether investments in K-12 career pathways and higher education are enabling residents to secure living-wage jobs.

The **Data Sharing and Governance Working Group** proposed by this bill offers a solution. By creating a centralized coordinating agency and formalizing cross-agency collaboration, Hawai'i will be better equipped to align its data systems with pressing strategic priorities, close equity gaps, and develop policies based on actionable insights.

Why Governance is the Key to Success

Based on my experience working with state agencies across the nation, initiatives like this often struggle to deliver—not because of technical or legal barriers, but because stakeholders begin building without first establishing a shared vision and a structured process for collaboration. SB742 directly addresses this by establishing a working group with a **formal governance structure and clear responsibilities** for:

1. **Building Trust and Collaboration:** The working group will convene leaders from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private industry to establish the trust and alignment necessary for long-term success. This structure ensures that all voices are represented.
2. **Creating a Common Vision:** The bill's focus on aligning data-sharing efforts with strategic plans across education, workforce development, and economic sustainability ensures that stakeholders are working toward shared goals rather than duplicating efforts or operating in silos.
3. **Future-Proofing Hawai'i's Data Systems:** By prioritizing transparency, modernization, and the inclusion of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, SB742 ensures that Hawai'i's data systems remain adaptive to future needs.

The emphasis in SB742 on identifying gaps in technology, resources, and data interoperability is critical. This future-focused approach will ensure that the data system not only addresses the challenges of today but also evolves to answer the questions of tomorrow.

Hawai'i's Workforce Crisis Requires Bold Action

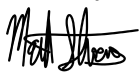
As detailed in HWFC's report, [*From Crisis to Opportunity: Building Hawai'i's Workforce Resilience*](#), Hawai'i faces a workforce crisis that demands urgent action. Nearly 42% of residents are unable to afford basic necessities, and 57% of Hawai'i's college graduates are underemployed five years after completing their degrees. Without a robust data system to inform decision-making, Hawai'i will struggle to reverse the trend of outmigration and ensure that residents can build sustainable futures here at home.

This report underscores the importance of connecting education and workforce data to ensure that policymakers and stakeholders can make strategic, data-driven decisions to address these challenges. SB742 is a critical step toward aligning state systems and creating a more equitable and resilient workforce for Hawai'i.

SB742 represents an essential step in creating a future-ready data system that reflects Hawai'i's unique challenges and opportunities. I urge the committee to advance this legislation and ensure the establishment of a governance structure that builds trust, aligns stakeholders, and empowers Hawai'i to design a data system that evolves with the needs of its people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to provide additional information or answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,



Matt Stevens

Executive Director

Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative



January 28th, 2025

Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Hearing Time: January 29th at 3:00 PM
Location: State Capitol
Re: SB742 Relating to Data Sharing

Aloha e Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

We are writing **in strong support of** SB742 Relating to Data Sharing.

This bill will establish a data sharing and governance working group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, to be coordinated by the State Chief Data Officer.

Codifying the role and purpose of a data sharing and governance working group in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes will be a significant step in improving data sharing conditions within the State. Previous ad hoc efforts to coordinate data sharing between state agencies and the public were less successful because they lacked a more formal structure for identifying and acting on data sharing challenges and opportunities. The work of the data sharing and governance working group to recommend an ongoing data sharing governance structure will be essential for supporting the Chief Data Officer's purpose to facilitate data sharing across state agencies, HRS 27-44.

With regards to the focus area of the data sharing and governance working group to identify existing barriers to seamless and frequent cross-departmental data sharing, we respectfully recommend that those findings be incorporated into the overall State Data Strategy.

With regards to the focus area of finding alignment between data sharing efforts across state and county, the City and County of Honolulu also has a Chief Data Officer. We encourage strengthening the collaboration between the State and County Chief Data Officers.



Hawai'i Data Collaborative (HDC) firmly believes that data informs our understanding of what is happening, why it is happening, and what we can do about it. Data helps identify opportunities, guide decisions, and create systems of accountability so we, as a community, can achieve better outcomes for all. HDC partners with government, philanthropy, and community-based organizations to improve data capacities and data sharing for better supporting households in need. Passing this measure will be a significant step forward for increased data sharing and generation of timely data insights that move Hawai'i forward.

We support this measure.

Please support SB742. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Redding, PhD
Executive Director
Hawai'i Data Collaborative

SB-742

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:34:42 PM

Testimony for LBT on 1/29/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

This is a commonsense government efficiency reform. I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!