



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By
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HB 1915 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1915 HD1. This measure would establish, within the Department of Education, a Workforce Readiness Program to be administered by the Adult Community Schools Program.

The program would provide opportunities for students to earn a workforce development diploma, pre-apprenticeship certificates, and other industry-recognized certificates that assess and document student readiness for a wide range of jobs in addition to an associate degree.

Under the proposed program, the University of Hawai'i (UH) would partner with the Department of Education to provide education and training. The UH Community Colleges offer a range of degree programs and certificates to meet the state's workforce needs and to prepare students for careers, whether the next step is immediate employment or to continuing education at a baccalaureate campus.

UH Community Colleges also partners with industry and employers to offer short and long term training which may be also offered as continuing education (not leading to degrees). These training programs address industry needs and include apprenticeship programs including Boilermakers, Bricklayer-Masons, Carpenters, HVAC, Plumbers, and Painters. Apprenticeship programs are also available in non-trade disciplines including Healthcare, Hospitality, Culinary, and Information Technology.

This legislation supports the strategic direction for UH Community Colleges' partnerships with Department of Education high schools, which is to offer education and training within career pathways to provide high school students with momentum toward a degree or certificate.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1915 HD1, on the condition that any funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.