



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education and the  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
February 4, 2020 at 1:59 p.m.

By  
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### HB 1915 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Woodson and Johanson, Vice Chairs Hashem, Quinlan, and Eli, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1915. This measure would establish within the Department of Education a Workforce Readiness Program. The program would provide opportunities for students to earn associates degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates. The Department of Education would designate schools, including adult community schools, to participate in the program.

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 offers a range of degree programs and certificates to meet the workforce needs of the state and to prepare students for careers, whether the next step is immediate employment or to continue 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, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.