



# 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  
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Nathan Murata, Dean  
College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 1676 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1676, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022. The requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of 2022, requires the University of Hawai'i to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education in each county. However, no funding was provided.

The University of Hawai'i, College of Education (COE) is committed to establishing an expanded cohort program. While the majority of COE programs are online and delivered statewide, we know that expanding our offerings is critical to building capacity on the neighbor islands and to increase the pipeline of “grow our own” educators. The COE will also work closely with the Hawai'i Department of Education, and all UH system campuses in order to streamline programs for students pursuing undergraduate degrees in education and to stabilize the Department of Education's workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, provided its adoption does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.