



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education and
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
March 13, 2020 at 2:05 p.m.

By
Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2056 SD2 – RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2056 Senate Draft (SD) 2. SB 2056 SD2 directs the UH to collaborate with other agencies to further develop an interactive web tool that will enable degree-seeking individuals to make better informed decisions regarding their post-secondary education and career choices. We support efforts for students to make informed choices about the post-high school and post-college options, and UH is committed to further development of such a tool.

Many of the career planning functions identified in SB 2056 SD2 are incorporated into UH's Career Explorer website: uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer. Hawai'i Career Explorer uses local and national labor data and information about job postings to inform individuals about education and career choices. Among the types of information available on the Career Explorer site include:

- By occupation, the number of jobs available, projected vacancies and forecasted growth;
- By occupation, average salary for entry-level and experienced employees;
- UH programs that prepare students for occupations; and
- Number of job postings by Hawai'i employers for the occupation in the last year.

The Career Explorer tool was developed by UH Community Colleges' (UHCC) staff and its development was supported, in part, by private foundation grants. UHCC is developing user guides for students and providing a county-based view of the labor data. Also, Career Explorer data are being incorporated into UH's STAR-GPS tool which UH students use for course planning.

UH already collaborates with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education on the tool and is open to additional stakeholder participation to identify features and uses to benefit students in making decisions about their career and education choices.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the consideration for an appropriation to support further development and use of the Career Explorer tool, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.