



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Energy Economic Development, and Tourism
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SB 2056 – RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chairs Kim, Kidani, and Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 2056, which directs the UH to develop and implement 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 has already developed a tool that meets the intent of SB 2056.

Many of the career planning functions identified in SB 2056 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 in Hawai'i and nationally for entry-level and experienced employees;
- UH programs that prepare students for occupations;
- Number of job postings by Hawai'i employers for the occupation type in the last year, and
- A job aptitude assessment.

The Career Explorer tool was developed by UH Community College (UHCC) staff and its development was supported, in part, by private foundation grants. The next step with Career Explorer is to conduct focus groups with high school and college students to inform improvements in user experience and development of user guides. Also, Career Explorer data are being incorporated into UH's STAR-GPS tool which UH students use for course planning.

The Career Explorer tool is open to use by students and the public. UHCC is committed to continuing training for educators and is available to demonstrate the tool for legislators and partners.