



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
and
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
February 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
By
Bernadette Howard
Hawaii State Director for Career and Technical Education
University of Hawaii

SB 516 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Kidani and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kim and Misalucha, and members of the Committees:

As the Hawai'i State Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE), which falls under the University of Hawai'i, I support the intent of SB 516 with comments and recommended revisions.

This bill would require the State Board for CTE to oversee and annually review statewide data collection processes and reporting requirements related to the student attainment of industry-recognized credentials, and annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on its findings.

It is in alignment with the US DOL's *Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act*, (WIOA), the US DOE's *Every Student Succeeds Act*, (ESSA) and the *Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century Act*, (Perkins V) State Plans.

Regarding an annual report to the state board for CTE:

The UH Board of Regents has served as the State Board for CTE since 1967 when Hawaii Statute 304A-302 was passed. That same statute requires "...an annual report to the Governor describing the conditions and progress of CTE...". The Board regularly submits the required report. An additional set of data points around credentials conforms to efforts currently underway across the state, and those data can be provided by the CTE office to the State Board for inclusion in the Governor's report once the processes and protocols have been completed and implemented.

Regarding collecting data around credentials:

WIOA, ESSA, and Perkins V State Plans are aligned around a statewide Career Pathways System. One of the elements of a high-quality career pathway is that it culminates in a degree, certificate, or credential recognized and validated by the employers in the state. Significant progress has been made over the last year

through cross agency and employer work groups to determine which credentials Hawaii's employers value and endorse. There is significant work still to be done to create the protocols and processes to do this with integrity – and to then implement the plan.

Recommendations:

1. Data security is of the highest importance and some of the language in this bill needs to be strengthened.
2. The work of organizing and implementing data collection and reporting across all agencies statewide, is unlikely to be completed by the bill's proposed effective date of July 1, 2022. I would respectfully recommend that the effective date be delayed until July 1, 2023.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.