



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
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By  
Erika Lacro  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 843 – RELATING TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) provides comments on Senate Bill 843. The measure would authorize the State of Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to waive the requirement of a bachelor's degree as a qualification for a "vocational, technical or career pathway teacher" and requirement for a license for those who have trade or industry experience. The measure also amends the special fund for private trade, vocational and technical schools. UH is only providing comments regarding the qualifications for vocational, technical or career pathway teachers.

UH's Leeward Community College prepares individuals with trade or industry experience to teach career and technical education through its Alternative Certification for Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. "Track 2" of the program aligns directly with the intent of SB843 by providing a pathway to teacher licensure for those with industry experience but who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Individuals who have at least three years of industry experience and an associate's degree may earn Leeward's Certificate of Competence which is recognized for licensure by the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board and is accredited by Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board approved Leeward's alternative certification program as a State Approved Teacher Education Program in 2015. Track 2 equips candidates who have content knowledge in career and technical education with the pedagogy necessary to become effective secondary teachers in CTE classrooms. The program requires 17 credits including inclusion, classroom management, educational psychology, and practicum (commonly referred to as "student teaching"). Students typically take 3-4 semesters to complete the program. In 2019-20, the Alternative Certification program, which consists of two tracks including a track for those who already have a bachelor's degree, had 41 students. Of those, 16 of the students graduated and became employed as CTE teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.