



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

By
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And
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SB 2359 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2359 SD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i system to require the University to establish in each county, K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

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 local educators. The COE will also work closely with the other Colleges at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 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.

The Dean of the University of Hawai'i COE and the Superintendent of the Department of Education serve as co-chairs of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, established under HRS §304A-1202. This Committee, with representatives from all teacher preparation programs in Hawai'i, have devoted efforts to addressing the teacher shortage and building the teacher workforce in Hawai'i.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.