



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and  
Senate Committee on Education  
Friday, February 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

By  
Bonnie Irwin  
Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 2359 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kim and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2359. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports SB 2359 which seeks to address the shortage of teachers by requiring the University of Hawai'i system to establish in each county, K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

The UH Hilo School of Education (SOE) believes that establishing an expanded undergraduate cohort program in Hawai'i County will provide options for local residents to stay home and complete their studies. UH Hilo SOE works closely with local schools to address teaching needs. We currently offer a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and the Master of Education (M.Ed.) to supplement the undergraduate offering by the UH Mānoa College of Education, to provide a pathway for residents to be highly qualified and licensed teachers.

While graduating highly qualified, licensed and effective teachers is the primary goal of the UH Hilo SOE, building and fostering the Hawai'i Island teaching force is our natural target population. We support this bill to “grow our own” educators and expand the opportunity for people to teach in their communities without having to leave their communities.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.