



# 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 3:15 p.m.

By  
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College of Education  
And  
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Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2359 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kim and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2359, relating to 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 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 of “grow our own” educators. The COE will also work closely with the other Colleges at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), 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 (TECC), 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.

The College of Education, UHM, provides programs to students on all islands to become teachers; however, not all licensure options are available. The COE is supportive of expanding our program options to address the K-12 shortages; the COE would also support expanding this legislation to include preparing PK teachers, as well.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.