



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Monday, February 14, 2022, at 3:10 p.m.

By  
Erika Lacro, Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 2928 SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Kidani and Kim, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 2928 Senate Draft (SD) 1 relating to Education. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the bill to establish a working group to study and develop an implementation plan for career pathways in the agricultural sector.

UH recognizes that agriculture is a critical sector for the state. UH President David Lassner identified agriculture and food among the key economic sectors that UH must contribute for a post-pandemic Hawai'i. UH will contribute through its leadership in workforce development, education and research excellence in its programs which provide education and training statewide.

The working group convened by SB 2928 SD1 will prepare an implementation plan for career pathways from high school to postsecondary education and training that prepares young people for employment in the agricultural sector and to meet present and future workforce needs. The working group will identify current initiatives such as the Leeward Community College and Leilehua Complex Area project to align an agriculture curriculum from elementary school through Leeward Community College's Wahiawa Value-Added Product Development Center; Leeward Community College and UH West O'ahu's partnership with MA'O Farms and Leeward Coast high schools, and Hawai'i Community College's Ka'u Dream partnership with Ka'u High School.

UH supports SB 2928 SD1. UH will collaborate with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education and other stakeholders for review of prior research and plans, to consider workforce needs, and to develop plans for career pathways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.