

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM** 

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 10:05 a.m. By Erika Lacro Vice President for Community Colleges University of Hawai'i System

SB 2928 SD2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 2928 Senate Draft (SD) 2 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.

UH will collaborate with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education and other stakeholders for review of prior research and plans, to define a study of workforce needs, and to develop plans for career pathways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.