



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
March 17, 2023, at 3:35 p.m.

By

Della Teraoka, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

SB 391 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE TRAINING

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 391 SD2, which would utilize the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) as a channel to assist in stimulating and revitalizing Hawai'i's economic recovery through the colleges' workforce development programs.

Unique to the University, UHCCs' mission includes workforce development and personal development for career mobility. UHCCs take seriously its responsibility to provide a trained workforce, offering occupational, technical and professional courses and programs to prepare students for immediate employment and career advancement. Through its seven campuses and six education centers throughout the state, UHCCs provide accessible and affordable options for education and training through its degree and certificate programs and non-credit workforce training programs. UHCCs offer a range of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs including healthcare, human services, skilled trades, business, technology and agriculture. Last year, in its degree and certificate programs, UHCCs served 7,623 students in CTE majors, offered 2,355 CTE classes and awarded 2,573 degrees and Certificates of Achievement. In its non-credit workforce training programs, UHCCs provided over 17,000 training opportunities, some leading to industry-based certifications including federally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Programs for 2,401 apprentices in the trades and healthcare.

As the UHCCs expand to serve students through Early College programs, this bill will provide needed resources to ensure all 7 community colleges can support high school students interested in gaining workforce skills through Early College. Early College offerings will be expanded to include credit-based and non-credit workforce training curriculum to move students into the workforce immediately after high school or to provide a faster track into credit Career & Technical Education degrees and certificates at the community colleges.

UHCCs are committed to meeting the state's workforce needs. This includes aligning UHCCs' CTE programs with current and forecasted needs for skills and certifications as well as the number of trained residents for workforce needs and employment opportunities.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 391 SD2, as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 391 SD2.