



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 3:01 p.m.

By

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And

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Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3209 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3209, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Act 141 requires the University of Hawai'i to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education in each county. However, no funding was provided.

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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, provided its adoption does not impact the priorities indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.