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Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
By
Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawaiʻi System

HCR 75/HR 67 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ASSESS THE CRITERIA REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE AND CURRICULUM TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY SKILLS IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND CYBERSECURITY

Chairs Woodson and Garrett, Vice Chairs La Chica and Amato, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HCR 75/HR 67, which requests the Department of Education and the University of Hawaiʻi to assess the criteria required to establish an educational pipeline and curriculum to ensure that students acquire the necessary skills in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity.

As the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) has prioritized workforce development as a core component of its strategic plan, this resolution aligns with ongoing efforts to enhance educational pathways and better prepare students for careers in high-technology industries. The UH System has consistently worked to improve transfer pathways and articulation agreements to ensure a seamless educational experience for students transitioning from community colleges to four-year degree programs. In addition, Hawaiʻi P-20 Partnerships for Education facilitates pathways alignment between UH and the Department of Education (DOE). These initiatives contribute to a stronger workforce that meets the demands of Hawaiʻi's evolving economy.

Advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity represent critical areas of need for the state's future workforce. As industries increasingly integrate artificial intelligence, robotics, and other emerging technologies into manufacturing, it is imperative that students are equipped with relevant skills. Similarly, cybersecurity is a growing field that is vital for national security, business continuity, and personal data protection. The UH System has already made significant investments in these fields, including:

- UH West Oʻahu's Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, with a concentration in Cyber Operations. UH West Oʻahu also houses a Cybersecurity Coordination

Center that has earned designations from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.
- UH West Oʻahu's Bachelor of Applied Science with a concentration in Information Security and Assurance. This pathway features articulation agreements with partner programs at Honolulu Community College, Leeward Community College, and Windward Community College.
- The Honolulu Community College Cybersecurity Center, which provides resources and training in computing security and networking technology.
- Leeward Community College's designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, recognizing its high standards in cybersecurity education.
- Articulation agreements between Leeward Community College, UH West Oʻahu, and UH Maui College that allow students to progress from an Associate of Science in Information and Computer Science to a Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Technology and Information Security Assurance.
- The University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa's School of Engineering, which offers degrees in multiple engineering disciplines that support advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity.
- Interdisciplinary research and coursework on material science available to students through the Hawaiʻi Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (HGIP) in collaboration with the College of Engineering.
- Leeward Community College's Associate in Science degree in the field of Integrated Industrial Technology, as well as accompanying certificate programs.

We concur with the Legislature that these are important fields for current and future job growth. Thus we support this resolution and recognize the University of Hawaiʻi's, including Hawaiʻi P-20, role in fostering workforce development in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Written Statement of
Sandi Kanemori
Interim Executive Director
Hawai`i Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee on Education and House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 20, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HCR75 / HR67
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO
ASSESS THE CRITERIA REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE
AND CURRICULUM TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY
SKILLS IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND CYBERSECURITY.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committees.

The Hawai`i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports HCR75 / HR67, which will provide an educational pipeline and curriculum for critical industries in technology and manufacturing for the State of Hawaii.

HTDC agrees that education in cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing is important to Hawaii's sustainability future, and aligns with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) strategic plan for cradle to career pathways. HTDC has been instrumental in fostering partnership between educators, industry leaders, and the University of Hawaii to develop programs that inspire our next generation of technology and manufacturing workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting this bill.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR75 / HR67
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STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY SKILLS IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND CYBERSECURITY.

Committee on Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education
Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

Chairs Woodson and Garrett, Vice Chairs La Chica and Amato, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** HCR75 / HR67 which requests the Department of Education and University of Hawaii to assess the criteria required to establish an educational pipeline and curriculum to ensure that students acquire the necessary skills in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The defense industry is a vital economic driver for Hawaii, ranking as the state's second-largest industry after tourism. The MAC advocates for the integration of innovative technologies and advancements in cybersecurity to transform the fields of advanced manufacturing and digital security. These efforts could serve as powerful catalysts to further strengthen and diversify Hawaii's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

HR-67
Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:11:56 PM
Testimony for EDN on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our cyber security in this country is dangerously lacking. One bad hack to our water filtration system or power grid can destroy many lives and livelihoods. I support this resolution!