



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Michael K. Champion, MD
Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System

Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Senate Bill No. 742SD2HD1, Relating to Data Sharing

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee,

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 742SD2HD1, which establishes a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

Behavioral health conditions are widespread, impacting people across socioeconomic levels. Addressing homelessness, mental health, substance use disorders, and public health issues requires a collaborative and coordinated cross-agency planning process with public and private sectors. A coordinated effort to share and translate data across agencies and stakeholder groups will support developing evidence-based solutions along with effective program development and implementation to address the needs of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 28, 2025

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Friday, March 28, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 742 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO DATA SHARING

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The **DLIR supports** this measure, stands ready to collaborate with our sister agencies in the proposed working group, and **defers to ETS** on matters of the administration and implementation of the working group.

SB742 SD2HD1 proposes to create a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group in the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), which would review the adequacy of departmental data sharing, address the State's capabilities regarding data sharing, make recommendations on an ongoing data sharing governance structure, and solicit input from various stakeholders, including labor and workforce organizations.

II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

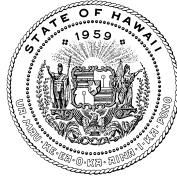
The DLIR does not currently collect data on occupation, pay rate, and work location through its unemployment compensation wage record system (Pg.4, lines 17 to 19). Requiring the collection of these data elements would necessitate state funding to add those data elements and for administrative costs, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or new MOU between the DLIR and the agencies involved with the sharing of the data, and a cost allocation agreement between the DLIR and the U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL). All expenses associated with developing and providing the data would require reimbursement in accordance with federal requirements.

The DLIR notes it is also developing a new platform for its Unemployment

Insurance (UI) technology program to replace the legacy mainframe system, so the working group would need to consider this transition as it examines potential data elements available from UI employer and wage records and note that the actual costs of furnishing the information are dependent upon the terms of the final agreements executed between the agencies.

The U.S. DOL requires strict confidentiality of UI information and adherence to the Congressional mandate that UI information is used only for the purpose for which it is directed. Therefore, in accordance with federal law and regulations, HRS 383-95 and 12-5-211 to 12-5-220, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the disclosure of information from workers, employers, or other persons or groups in administering the UI Program is confidential unless the DLIR director deems the sharing of the information is in the public interest. In addition, this sharing of information or data would require the development of MOUs and cost-sharing agreements, as outlined above.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
Chief Information Officer
Office of Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, March 28, 2025

SENATE BILL NO. 742, SD2 HD1
RELATING TO DATA SHARING

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee:

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) is in **strong support** of this bill to create a data sharing and governance working group within the Department of Accounting and General Services, Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

Data sharing is critical for our state to improve service-delivery across departments, support informed decisions of the legislature and the governor, and enhance operational efficiencies, improve citizen services, enable faster response to disasters, and prevent fraud and abuse.

While the Data Task Force establishes policies, procedures, and standards, we need a designated Data Sharing and Governance Working Group to define the detailed data sharing and governance framework and collaborated actions to establish and manage a sustainable data sharing mechanism within the State of Hawai'i.

Governor Josh Green's priorities such as housing, affordability, healthcare, homelessness, all require statewide shared data to enable evidence-based decision making.

In SB742 SD2, Section 2 (h), language was added to sunset the working group on June 30, 2026. It would require at least two years for the working group to successfully complete the tasks and carry out the duties as provided in this measure, i.e., reviewing the adequacy of the current State's capabilities regarding data sharing and recommending a data sharing governance structure. As such, we request that the language be amended to June 30, 2027, to sunset the working group.

In SB742 SD2 HD1, Section 2 (g), the bill requires the working group to file a report of its findings and recommendations with the legislature at least 20 days prior to the start of the 2026 session. We ask that this be changed to 20 days prior to the start of the 2027 legislative session to give the working group enough time to do the work needed to create a credible report.

Additionally, adequate staff and resources are needed to support this working group in carrying out its duties. We ask that two additional positions and funds be added to SB742:

\$140,000 in FY26 and the same sum in FY27 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions described below to support the working group and define the scope of work and plan for action.

1. \$70,000 for a data coordinator (1.0 FTE) to identify data sharing needs at the state and federal levels, assess risks, and prepare recommendations for a consistent and stable data sharing framework.
2. \$70,000 for one (1.0 FTE) assistant to support daily activities as described in SB742.

Additional funding of \$50,000 is also requested to cover travel costs for members.

Concurrently, budget items have been included in HB300 HD1 (\$1,613,000 for FY26, and \$2,160,000 for FY27) for dedicated resources to support ongoing efforts by a centralized authority in ETS on data sharing governance as envisioned by the CIO; adequate resources would include:

- a. A data governance tool with one data governance full time equivalent data governance specialist (1.0 FTE) to protect privacy, improve data quality, identify existing data sets including data sets from the federal government.
- b. A master data management tool with one full time equivalent master data specialist (1.0 FTE) to map and integrate data across departments and create a record at the state level to ensure smooth data sharing and accurate mapping and integration of the shared data.
- c. A shared data management platform with artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) capabilities to curate and store shared data from the federal, state, and county governments including open data. One full time equivalent (1.0 FTE) data architect and a full time equivalent (1.0 FTE) data scientist to design and manage this platform to support decision making. The platform will also have the capability to conduct analysis, simulation, prediction, and visualization of data to support daily operations and decisions from departments, organizations, and policy makers to best serve our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'āina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on S.B. No. 742, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING

Committee: FIN
Date: Friday, March 28, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 308

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in support of S.B. No. 742, H.D. 1 and defers to the Office of Enterprise Technology Services regarding the feasibility and cost of implementation.

As the office responsible for coordinating Hawai'i's early learning system, which includes several programs across multiple departments, EOEL is committed to improving data integration and collaborating on a centralized governance structure for data sharing among State agencies.

We appreciate being included in the working group and look forward to co-developing a system that improves data access, analysis, and sharing, and provides better information to inform policy decisions that lead to better outcomes for Hawai'i's children and families.

We are grateful for the Legislature's ongoing investment in our youngest keiki and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony in support of this measure.



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 Finance
Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 742 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is providing comments regarding Senate Bill 742 SD2 HD1, which seeks to establish a data-sharing and governance working group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, coordinated by the Chief Data Officer. The UH recognizes the importance of enhancing data sharing across agencies to better understand the challenges and opportunities that our state faces.

The UH is invested in improving the outcomes of its graduates as they navigate Hawai'i's challenging economic landscape. Robust data-sharing agreements among the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, as mandated under HRS 27-7, already provide valuable insights into educational progress and workforce outcomes for UH graduates. These efforts, which also include our participation in the statewide 21st-Century Data Governance Data Task Force, exemplify our commitment to leveraging data for informed decision-making.

Access to data currently siloed in other state agencies could transform the UH in its development of targeted programs that better align academic offerings with career pathways, leading to sustainable employment and affordable living in Hawai'i. For this reason, we support closing employment information gaps as proposed in Senate Bill 1491 SD1 HD1 Relating to Departmental Data Sharing, which will add the Department of Taxation and the Department of Economic, Development, and Tourism to the list of state agencies sharing data through the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. It would allow the Department of Taxation to link wage information by social security numbers to UH education records.

Furthermore, student basic needs—such as affordable housing, food security, and access to healthcare—are critical components of student success. The UH is actively working to address these issues through our basic needs initiatives and most recently through participation in the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Basic Needs Academy. To effectively advocate for policy changes and secure necessary resources, it is crucial to have robust data on the extent of these needs and

how they affect students' academic performance and overall well-being. Expanding data sharing with other state agencies could allow us to better understand the challenges facing our students, particularly those who are struggling to meet basic needs and tailor our support services accordingly with one possible outcome being that students eligible for multiple benefits could experience more streamlined processing as opposed to separate applications and documents for individual agencies.

The University of Hawai'i stands ready to collaborate with our partners in state government to provide the data-informed insights needed to make decisions that will benefit both students and the broader community. This initiative aligns with the UH's own goals to enhance student outcomes, improve post-graduate employment opportunities, and address the affordability crisis that so many young adults and families are facing in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 28, 2025 2:00 pm Room 308

Aloha Chairs Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supports SB742 SD2 HD1, which establishes a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. The ability to access and analyze disaggregated data regarding Native Hawaiians is critical to the work of OHA, as it enables informed decision-making and policy development that directly impacts the well-being of our la hui. Accurate and specific data is essential in identifying disparities, assessing needs, and ensuring that programs and resources are effectively allocated to support Native Hawaiians.

Given OHA’s experience and expertise in handling Native Hawaiian data, we believe our inclusion in the Data Sharing and Governance Working Group is necessary. OHA actively participated in 21st Century Data Governance Task Force pursuant to SCR 174 (2024)¹ and has long advocated for comprehensive and culturally relevant data collection and analysis. Our involvement in the proposed working group in this measure would ensure that Native Hawaiian perspectives and data considerations are fully integrated into the development of data-sharing protocols, governance structures, and research frameworks. Without direct representation, the needs and priorities of Native Hawaiians may not be adequately reflected in the working group’s efforts.

For decades, the lack of detailed, disaggregated data has hindered efforts to fully understand and address the unique challenges facing Native Hawaiians across sectors

1 21st Century Data Governance Task Force. *Assessment of Demographic Data Collection, Processing,*
Retention, and Sharing Procedures in Hawai'i: A Report in Fulfillment of SCR174 SD1, SLH 2024. Submitted to
the Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i, The Senate. December 6, 2024. Last Accessed 032725:
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaaid:sc:va6c2:fd39e305-1627-4282-8052-553bae74f20d>

such as health, education, economic stability, and housing. The establishment of a centralized, coordinated approach to data governance will improve cross-agency collaboration and provide greater transparency, allowing for more effective policy solutions. The bill recognizes that fragmented and siloed data systems have long prevented a holistic understanding of the state's economic and social landscape, and OHA believes that addressing these gaps is essential for the equitable advancement of all communities in Hawai'i.

As an entity dedicated to the betterment of Native Hawaiians, OHA understands that effective governance of data is critical to making informed policy decisions that impact not only Native Hawaiians but all residents of Hawai'i. Strengthening data-sharing mechanisms will enhance the state's ability to track progress, measure outcomes, and address disparities in a way that is inclusive and responsive to community needs. **OHA urges the committee to pass this bill and to ensure that OHA is included in the working group so that Native Hawaiian data remains a key consideration in shaping policies and programs for the future of Hawai'i.**



March 26, 2025

Position: Support of SB742, SD2, HD1

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Llasmin Chaîne, LSW, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of SB742, SD2, HD1 Relating to Data Sharing

Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW), I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important bill and offer my **support of SB742, SD2, HD1**, Relating to Data Sharing and the establishment of a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group.

As the state entity responsible for annually reporting on: governmental and nongovernmental activities and information relating to the status of women, available economic and educational opportunities, gender equality and equity advocacy activities, policy and program development efforts (which includes several programs across multiple departments), the HSCSW is committed to improving data integration and collaborating on a centralized governance structure for data sharing among State agencies and community stakeholders.

We would appreciate this Committee's support to:

- **break down the current information silos** between state entities,
- enable the **development of a data system and infrastructure** that will improve data access, analysis, and sharing, and
- **inform policy recommendations and decisions,**

better positioning the State to address the affordability crisis and improvements for Hawai'i's children and working families.

We are grateful for the Legislature's ongoing investment in our keiki, working mothers and their families. I **respectfully urge this Committee to pass SB742, SD2, HD1, providing stakeholders with the necessary data and infrastructure to prevent population loss.** Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S.BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 742 SD 2 HD1
RELATING TO DATA SHARING**

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

March 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., Room Number 308

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office is in **SUPPORT** of S.B. 742 SD2 HD1, Relating to Data Sharing.

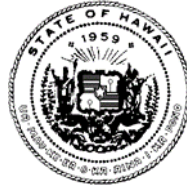
Data-sharing is critical for the state to transform service delivery across departments in ways that can better recognize and respond to experiences of trauma. By enabling departments to share relevant information securely, we can reduce the burden on individuals who otherwise must repeatedly share their stories across multiple agencies—a process that can be retraumatizing. This improved coordination supports the core principles of trauma-informed care: safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment. Furthermore, shared data enables community leaders, the Legislature and the Governor to make more informed and transparent decisions about policies and programs that affect our most vulnerable populations. A well-resourced data sharing working group will support this vital work by recommending protocols, frameworks, and data architecture that balance the need for information sharing with the importance of maintaining privacy and building trust, which are key elements of trauma-informed systems. This is particularly vital, given the recent unpredicted removal and potential future removal of open Federal data sets and/or variables (e.g., Youth Risk Behavior Survey). We believe that this represents a significant step toward building a more trauma-informed state government that better serves our state.

The OWR is heavily focused on continued quality improvement of data on social determinants of health. S.B. 742 SD2 HD1 will further enhance our data collecting and sharing efforts and we are looking forward to collaborating and to supporting the data sharing and governance working group.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Tia L. R. Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Director, Office of Wellness and Resilience
Office of the Governor

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 27, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 742 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO DATA SHARING.**

Hearing: March 28, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and defers to the Office of Enterprise Technology Services for necessary resources. DHS will participate in the working group. While sustaining appropriations are needed to support the vast scope of identified work, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this bill not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The Committee on Labor and Technology amended the measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Committee on Ways and Means amended the measure by:

- (1) Adding language to make the working group temporary and have it dissolve on June 30, 2026; and

- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Committee on Economic Development & Technology further amended the measure by:

- (1) Adding the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, or the Executive Director's designee, as a member of the Data Sharing and Governance Working Group;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure

March 26, 2025

To: Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita,
Chair, Committee on Finance

And

Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi,
Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

And

Honorable Members of the Committee on Finance

Regarding: **Support for SB742 SD2 HD1 Relating to Data Sharing**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of SB742 SD2 HD1, which establishes a working group to create a durable, cross-agency governance structure to oversee a statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS).

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawai'i has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, builds the conditions for all students in Hawai'i to thrive. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

In the face of an affordability crisis, Hawai'i must better support young people to enter local jobs that enable them to survive and thrive in the state for years to come. Forty-two percent of residents are unable to afford basic necessities, and a substantial number of college graduates find themselves underemployed five years post-graduation.¹ The Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative recently released a report estimating that over the next decade, nearly 30% of new workforce entrants will be left "without viable opportunities to build a sustainable future."²

In response to such challenges, the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) has invested heavily in career pathways programs, and community partnerships for work-based learning opportunities have proliferated in recent years. At the same time, Hawai'i lacks a unified data system that can track and analyze all students' progress across K-12 and into the

¹ Burning Glass Institute and Strada Institute for the Future of Work, Talent Disrupted: Underemployment, College Graduates, and the Way Forward, 2024.

² Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative, From Crisis to Opportunity: Building Hawai'i's Workforce Resilience, January 2025.



workforce. The result is that leaders and policymakers must cobble together disaggregated information to assess the impact of such programs on students after they graduate.

This bill is an important step toward overcoming this challenge. Several foundational pieces in Hawai'i's data landscape will enable the measure to be effective, including a codified SLDS and a strong track record of prioritizing disaggregated student data, which help us understand and address inequities in student outcomes. However, the more expansive data sharing system proposed in SB742 could have far broader-reaching output and meet the potential demonstrated by innovative systems in other states like Kentucky, California or Rhode Island.

These states have harnessed the power of centralized data sharing to drive improvements in public trust, cost savings, and policy insights. For instance, California's Cradle-to-Career Data System³ offers a platform that enables real-time data analysis, empowering policymakers to make responsive decisions that reflect the needs of their communities. SB742 also seeks to emulate Kentucky and Washington's governance models, emphasizing cross-sector collaboration and broad inclusion. Hawai'i has a unique opportunity with this measure to take its current cross-agency data governance policy, strengthen it to include national best practices, and codify it in statute so that it is sustainable across administrations.

Beyond its impact in workforce development, this bill also provides the foundation for a more coordinated approach to data collection and sharing across multiple sectors, including education, health, housing, transportation, and social services. For example, a cross-agency data system can foster stronger outcomes for youth by ensuring that key decision-makers have a complete, real-time picture of how different public investments and programs are impacting youth across multiple dimensions. This will allow us to identify disparities, develop targeted interventions and more effective policies, and help young people not only enter the workforce but also build futures in Hawai'i.

The opportunities to hone in on the causes and effects of entrenched challenges and improve outcomes are boundless when agencies work together and share data across sectors. By passing SB742 SD2 HD1, Hawai'i can take a proactive step to ensure that our education, workforce, and social services systems better serve the needs of all young people.

Mahalo for your consideration of this measure,

Erica Nakanishi-Stanis
Advocacy Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

³ AB 132: California Cradle-to-Career Data System Act ([Code 10853](#))



Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB742, which would establish a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

As a social impact professional with over two decades of experience in data science and public-sector collaboration, I have seen firsthand how cross-agency data sharing can transform state decision-making. While supporting workforce alignment strategies in Colorado, we launched an initiative that successfully established a cross-agency working group—much like the one proposed in SB742. That group developed secure, streamlined, and effective systems for data governance and collaboration. The success of that working group directly informed and enabled the passage of [HB22-1349](#), which represented a critical investment in modernizing Colorado's workforce data infrastructure to better support all jobseekers statewide.

One of the most important lessons from that experience is that successful data-sharing requires more than just technology or formal agreements—it requires dedicated staff who can sustain collaboration across agencies. No single department has the capacity to manage this coordination alone. That's why this working group is so important: it provides the structure and shared responsibility needed to ensure that data-sharing is not just a one-time initiative, but an ongoing, strategic effort that strengthens workforce and economic development in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is making significant investments in education, workforce training, and economic resilience. But without a coordinated and modern data infrastructure, we cannot fully measure the impact of those investments or ensure they are reaching all residents equitably. In every working group convened for the development of Hawai'i's State Unified Workforce Development Plan, the need for stronger, more integrated workforce data has emerged as a top priority. SB742 responds directly to that need.

By passing SB742, the Legislature can take a meaningful step toward ensuring that Hawai'i's policy decisions and public investments are informed by real-time, high-quality data—and that those investments are producing equitable outcomes across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I respectfully urge you to pass SB742.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Stevens". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Stevens
Executive Director
Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative
matt@hawaiiwork.org



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, March 28, 2025 — 2:00 p.m.

The Workforce Development Council supports SB 742 SD2 HD1, Relating to Data Sharing.

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

We are Keith DeMello and Tuia‘ana Scanlan, members of the State of Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council (WDC) delegated with the authority to represent the WDC’s legislative policy positions. Pursuant to [HRS Chapter 202](#), the WDC is an advisory commission comprised of both public and private-sector representatives selected by the Governor to serve on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of workforce development programs in Hawai‘i and how to support economic development throughout the state.

The WDC supports SB 742 SD2 HD1, which establishes a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services and requires the Working Group to submit annual reports to the Legislature.

Integrated data systems are critical to addressing Hawai‘i’s workforce challenges, as was emphasized at the WDC’s Workforce Synergy Summit in December 2024. This bill would help to achieve the following outcomes under the [Hawai‘i State Workforce Unified Plan’s](#) “Four Pillars”:

Pillar #1: Alignment with Economic Growth

The proposed data system would provide crucial insights into labor market trends, helping us better understand and address issues of labor shortages, living wages, and economic diversification. This aligns with our goal of connecting economic development with workforce development to create sustainable career pathways.

Pillar #2: Education and Training Alliances

The proposed governance structure would strengthen these connections, allowing us to better evaluate the effectiveness of training programs and ensure they align with actual workforce needs. This supports our goal of building stronger bridges with Hawai‘i’s educators and training providers.

Pillar #3: Inclusivity and Equity

A comprehensive longitudinal data system would help identify gaps in service delivery and measure the effectiveness of efforts toward meaningful integration and collaboration among all stakeholders in the workforce development space.

Pillar #4: Workforce Synergy

A unified data governance structure would facilitate the collaboration we seek to foster among workforce development stakeholders.

We also view this bill as a crucial step toward creating a more responsive and effective workforce development system. By establishing a robust governance structure for data sharing, Hawai'i can better:

- Track the effectiveness of education and workforce programs;
- Identify emerging trends and opportunities in our labor market;
- Make data-informed decisions about resource allocation; and
- Ensure accountability in workforce development initiatives.

We respectfully urge legislators to pass this bill, as it will provide the data infrastructure needed to better serve Hawai'i's workforce needs and support economic growth across our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith DeMello
Member, WDC

Tuia'ana Scanlan
Member, WDC

SB-742-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:11:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

This is a common sense proposal to strengthen data sharing for Hawaii. I'm surprised such an initiative has not already been established. I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!