



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/08/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi  
Hawaii State Department of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1559 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a career development success program to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs. Establishes a similar program for public charter schools. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1559 and appreciates the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all students.

The Department recognizes that HB 1559 creates a career development success program to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools and charter schools to encourage students to enroll and complete a qualified industry-credential program. The Department appreciates the appropriation in this bill to distribute monetary awards based on the number of students who earn various credentials on the *Promising Credentials* list.

As public high schools establish or expand their Career and Technical Education

programs of study within their school design, the Department is committed to strengthening a concerted effort among various partners to prepare students for the college and career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certifications, work-based learning experiences, and/or post-secondary credits to contribute to the vitality of Hawaii's workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1559.

**HB-1559**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Keith Hayashi       | Hawaii Department of Education | Support                   | Yes                               |

Comments:

Support

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB 1559 Relating to Education  
DATE: February 8, 2022  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education &  
Committee on Economic Development  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1559** which establishes a career development success program to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs. Establishes a similar program for public charter schools, and appropriates funds.

The Commission is deeply grateful for the inclusion of our public charter schools in new program. The Commission is available to work with this committee, the Hawaii Department of Education, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1559

**February 8, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1559 adds a new section to Chapter 302A, HRS, and Chapter 302D, HRS, to establish a Career Development Success Program (Program) to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools and charter schools to encourage students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs. The bill appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 23 for the Program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

February 8, 2022

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair

Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

Aloha Chairs Woodson and Quinlan, Vice Chairs Kapela and Holt, and Members of the Committees,

**HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports HB1559**, which establishes a career development success program to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs; establishes a similar program for public charter schools; and appropriates funds.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

In terms of generational sustainability, it is clear the status quo won't cut it. Hawaii continues to be a place that is losing population, and research shows that a significant number of young and educated former residents have now found other states their home.<sup>1</sup> That means our leaders and policymakers must be taking bold steps to ensure

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/01/hawaiis-population-drain-outpaces-most-states-again/#:~:text=From%20July%202020%20to%20July,from%20the%20U.S.%20Census%20Bureau.&text=This%20means%20about%2014%2C500%20people,Hawaii%20has%20lost%2030%2C000%20residents.>

our students are fully equipped to survive and thrive in Hawaii, especially given the economic stresses heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One clear way to achieve this call to action is to fully harness the power of Hawaii's innovative career readiness programs in our public schools. It's not just a matter of *if* students are getting career readiness opportunities, but rather if those experiences are strategically aligned to provide students with the most benefits. SB516 – Act 163 – was passed last year to help schools, policy leaders, and funders better understand and prioritize programming for students when it comes to getting them ready for quality and available jobs in Hawaii. For the first time, data will be available and shared from all state educational systems and workforce training agencies to analyze the cross-agency longitudinal education and workforce outcomes of students who attempted an educational course, training program, career program, postsecondary program, or other state-supported workforce training program.

HB1559 would build on this foundation to create an incentive program for public schools based on how successfully students attain industry recognized credentials that are aligned to the local Promising Credentials report. In particular, the report used intensive labor market analysis and outreach to local Hawaii businesses to curate a list of industry-recognized credentials that are associated with in-demand, living wage occupations throughout the state. That means a student earning a Promising Credential is better prepared for jobs that are forecasted to increase in demand, pay a family sustaining wage, and have a promising career ladder.

This effort is a win for students, schools, local employers, and the broader Hawaii economy, and would make our education system among the most exciting in the world. In Switzerland, for example, student pairing with businesses begins at the age of sixteen, with 71 percent of high schoolers participating in all fields (trades, blue- and white-collar occupations). Spending up to three days per week working in industry-specific training, the Swiss youth earn a monthly stipend of between \$800 and \$1,400. Upon graduation from high school at the age of nineteen or twenty, students leave with a diploma, several years of work experience, a sizable savings cushion, and typically an in-hand offer from an employer or a targeted higher-education pathway.<sup>2</sup>

And investment in today's kid is an investment in Hawaii's bright present *and* future.

Mahalo for your consideration,

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<sup>2</sup> <https://epicenter.wcfia.harvard.edu/blog/our-labor-market-crisis-paving-new-path-future-work>



David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 1559 Relating to Education**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1559 which establishes a career development success program to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs. It also establishes a similar program for public charter schools.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Through strategic and deliberate collaboration, the Chamber is investing in K-12 career and technical education, and synergy with business community, resulting in new industry partner connections, sector-driven workforce development solutions, increased certification attainment and high-quality work-based learning (WBL) experiences.

The Chamber supports the development and funding of sector-driven collaboratives to address Hawaii's talent pipeline and workforce development solutions. Sector Partnerships provide a forum for employers, educators, community partners and public sector leaders to collaborate on opportunities to strengthen and grow their sector. We believe that convening and facilitating a shared space for employers and educators is instrumental to preparing Hawaii residents for in-demand jobs and helping employers find skilled workers.

Establishing a career development success program in Hawaii would ensure that students learn skills and earn credentials required by industry for employment after graduation. Industry-recognized credentials are important because they teach the specific knowledge and skills that are required for an occupation or industry. With the rise in student debt and workforce shortages across multiple industries, this bill helps students find a career path they can thrive in, while also strengthening and diversifying our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Pepeluali 7, 2022

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair  
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

Aloha mai e nā Lunaho‘omalu Woodson aLunaho‘omalu Quinlan, Hope Lunaho‘omalu Kapela a Hope Lunaho‘omalu Holt, a me nā Lālā o ke Komite,

‘O Phoenix Maimiti Valentine ko‘u inoa. Ua hānau ‘ia au ma Honolulu. Ua hānai ‘ia au ma ke awawa o Makaha.

He puka kula ki‘eki‘e au. He haumāna au me ka lālā o ka papa o HawaiiKidsCAN. He ‘umikūmāhiku o‘u makahiki. Ha‘aheo au e kāko‘o i ka Bila Hale 1559. Welina!

My name is Phoenix Maimiti Valentine. I was born in Honolulu. I was raised in Mākaha Valley. I am a high school graduate. I’m a student and board-member of HawaiiKidsCAN. I am 18 years old. I am proud to support HB1559. Welina!

HB1559 builds on SB516 which creates incentive programs for public school students to attain industry recognized credentials that align with the local Promising Credentials report. If students in public schools in Hawaii can have more opportunities to secure a sustainable future in an industry that interests them with the knowledge and skills required for success, then business, industry, students and their families would flourish.

There are members in the community doing their part to help students create a sustainable future in Hawai‘i. The Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Scholastic Art & Writing, Pele Awards, HIFF, HawaiiKidsCAN, Kamehameha Schools, Nalukai Academy, and so many more today commit to building a better future by helping one another and challenging every individual to strive for their ideals. Aloha aku, Aloha mai!

HB1559 is another opportunity which would challenge students to be the best version of themselves by learning through industry professionals in local Hawaii Businesses as they build their future, thriving in Hawai‘i nei.

Please vote in favor of HB1559.

Mahalo a nui loa, Phoenix Maimiti Valentine

**HB-1559**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 12:19:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amy Sun             | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I support HB1559. As a math teacher, I know my students will use the skills taught in my classroom in their future jobs. However, the translation to students is often less clear since the standards focus on the raw skills. Future employers want their workers to apply their skills and knowledge to problem solve and create solutions. By creating an incentive program with Promising Credentials that clearly outline what employers want in their hires, we can not only put our students on the correct pathway to employment but we can have students, teachers, and employers speak the same language and reach the same goals: success for our students in the future workplace.

Thank you, Chairman Woodson, Vice-Chairperson Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education.

What I have to share today may not be new or a revelation (though some may lend context to why I believe it is so critical to moving this bill forward.

High schools are our state's front line in the battle to restore America's global competitiveness. There is no stronger call than to our Haumana here in Hawaii. High school completion is the first step in the earnings and skill ladder and incentivizing the bridge to postsecondary education, work readiness, and lifelong learning is critical.

### **A Call to Action**

Many of our high schools fulfilled this task and prepared students for good jobs at decent wages. However, as you are all well aware, the legacy of our state's high schools is in jeopardy – too many of our state's youth are dropping out of high school and too many high school graduates are unprepared for the demands of postsecondary education or work.

Three out of ten students who enter high school do not graduate. Four out of ten who graduate lack the skills and knowledge required to go to college or succeed in the workforce. Five out of ten who go to college do not finish.[1]

Our high school students' lack of preparation has serious implications for our economy and prosperity. Every year taxpayers pay to fund remedial education to students at public universities and colleges.[2] Shortfalls in basic skills cost businesses, colleges, and under-prepared high school graduates, as much as \$16 billion annually (nationally) in lost productivity and remedial costs.[3]

Our state has a powerful incentive to plug the leaks in the education pipeline. Currently, two-thirds of new jobs will require some postsecondary education beyond a high school degree. To be competitive and create the conditions for strong economic growth, we need to help all of our residents increase their skills and be prepared for lifelong learning. Much is at stake.

Governors (the National Governors Association) over sixteen years ago took on the task of are working to improve the high school experience to ensure that our students are ready to earn and learn well beyond graduation day. Really, can we say we have even moved the needle? Their initiative was "*Redesigning the American High School*" – to spur state action and systemically change high schools. Convened governors advisors from over 30 states to develop an understanding of the diverse problems in high schools and increased awareness of promising state best practices;

- Developed several publications such as *Getting it Done: Ten Steps to a State Action Agenda* to provide governors with concrete strategies to begin redesigning their high schools (the full text of the document is attached); and

There were many efforts but no impact JUST MANY UNFUNDED MANDATES>

We must use this bill as a start to finally implement the urgent needs of the system – NOT MORE OF THE SAME.

- **High school models that strengthen student relationships with adults; connect classroom work to real-life problems; and improve connections to postsecondary education.**
  - Career and technical education can bridge the transition between high school and postsecondary education by providing students with real-world skills to better prepare for the CURRENT workplace.
- **Improving college and work-readiness assessments & data in high schools.**
  - HB516 instituted state-based accountability in K-12 education

## **Conclusion**

Working with businesses, education leaders, parents, and students, understand the unique challenges our state faces in redesigning high schools. This committee also understands how much flexibility is required to develop and implement meaningful solutions. There are no easy answers. Every child, every teacher, every school is different. This bill would be a step in the right direction by jump-starting programs that strengthen ingenuity and innovation.

Our state must not fail to provide students with the foundation for lifelong learning – the cost to our children and our state is too high. Many of us stand ready to work with you to create a common vision to support lifelong learning and redesign our state’s high schools.