

Date of Hearing: March 18, 2009

Committee: House Education/Labor &
Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 747, S.D. 2 (SSCR 657), Relating to Workforce
Development

Purpose: Addresses workforce development issues within the State through
various initiatives, programs, and appropriations; extends the
educational workforce working group for two years.

Department's Position: The Department supports S.B. No. 747, S.D. 2 (SSCR 657) as long
as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set
forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-
2010.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
and the
HOUSE COMMITTEE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

SB 747 SD2
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair Takumi, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the House Committees on Education and Labor and Public Employment.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to provide comments on this measure which addresses education and workforce development issues in the state. We also urge that its implementation not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010. DBEDT will only address the portion of the measure relating to data sharing. We will defer to DLIR on all other aspects of this measure.

Currently, the University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and DBEDT are working together to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate data sharing in support of tracking and performance measurement. This group of agencies will be submitting grant proposals for stimulus and other funds to pursue this effort. The group greatly appreciates the support for that effort that this bill provides.

The National Governors Association and other Federal agencies have advocated that states adopt policies that bring about better cooperation between workforce development, economic development and educational agencies. In particular, it has been recognized that better data and the ability to track the progress of students through the educational pipeline are critical to ensuring the effectiveness educational reform and the development of a skilled workforce in a century of increasing global competition. This level of cooperation must continue to be an important goal for Hawaii.

Finally, additional Federal stimulus funds moneys will be made available for states that make progress in several areas, one of which is to improve longitudinal data systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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DIRECTOR

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**STATE OF HAWAII
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March 17, 2009

To: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Education

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 309
State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**Comments regarding
S.B. 747, SD 2, Relating to Workforce Development**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

S.B. 747 proposes to implement the following initiatives recommended by the educational workforce working group that was established as a result of Act 283, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007:

- Establish and appropriate funds for a comprehensive database to track students from grades kindergarten to twelve and beyond as they move into the workforce;
- Establish and appropriate funds for a community-based exchange coordinator position and support staff in the Department of Education for administrative purposes only, and housed within a nonprofit organization in Hawaii;

- Appropriate funds for enhancement of the Department of Education volunteer website;
- Extend and appropriate funds for the educational workforce working group that is housed within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for administrative purposes only; and
- Establish and appropriate funds for the educational working group to review and recommend enhancements to the current Career and Technical Education website for dissemination of information regarding workforce development resources, initiatives, and programs.

II. CURRENT LAW

Act 283, Session Laws of 2007, established the educational workforce working group to identify and address various issues relating to workforce needs. The group submitted a report containing issues and recommendations to the legislature, which was the basis for this bill. .

III. SENATE BILL

The Department opposes S.B. 747 SD2 for the following reasons:

1. The Department is currently involved in a project with the University of Hawaii, DEBDT and the DOE to apply for a federal grant to establish a comprehensive database to track students from kindergarten to the workforce. Given the current budget situation and fact that we are currently pursuing a grant, an appropriation from the State General Fund would not be appropriate at this time.
2. With regard to the community based exchange coordinator position and support staff, these additional positions are not budgeted for in the Executive Biennium Budget 2009-2010. Given the current budget situation it would not be prudent to make these additional appropriations.
3. The Department opposes the creation of the workforce working group mentioned in this proposal, as the Workforce Development Council is already equipped to address educational workforce issues.

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Deleted: <#>Aligning education, workforce development, and economic development is important for Hawaii to become competitive in the global marketplace. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations supports the intent of the bill if it does not displace priorities set forth in the Executive biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on
Education
and

Labor and Public Employment
March 18, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

SB 747, SD 2 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Berg and Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

As pointed out in SB 747, SD2, the educational workforce working group established by Act 238 SLH 2007, prepared and submitted a report to the legislature, which included numerous recommendations along with a significant number of detailed action steps. As participants in the process, we found the efforts of the group to be helpful in focusing attention on a number of complex issues that create barriers to the operation of a more efficient education to work pipeline.

The University and the Community Colleges would be happy to participate if the working group is extended for two additional years as called for in the bill.