

SB 747

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Date of Decision Making: February 27, 2009

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 747, S.D. 1 (SSCR 186), 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. 1 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Developing a comprehensive tracking system will provide valuable student information to guide reform efforts. The existing Career and Technical Education website will become the main system for disseminating information in regards to workforce development resources, initiatives, and programs within the State. Clarifying the role and duties of the community-business education exchange coordinator position will support the collaboration with the Corporate and Community Partnership Office (CCPO) in the Office of the Superintendent.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 27, 2009

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

SB 747 SD1
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

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.