

SCR46 SD1/SR20 SD1

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE TRADE, VOCATIONAL, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Report Title: Private Trade, Vocational, and Technical Schools; Licensing; Department of Education; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

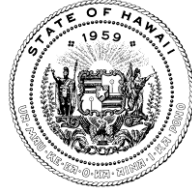
Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, CPN

Introducer(s): BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, KIDANI, TOKUDA, Green, Kouchi, Nishihara, Taniguchi



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**PRESENTATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2015
Tuesday, April 7, 2015
9:30 a.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46, S.D. 1 AND SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20, S.D. 1, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE TRADE, VOCATIONAL, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“DCCA”). The DCCA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46, S.D. 1 and Senate Resolution No. 20, S.D. 1 (together referred to as “Resolutions”).

The Resolutions request that Hawaii’s Department of Education (“DOE”) and the DCCA “convene a working group to evaluate and review the State’s current licensing program for private trade, vocational, and technical schools established pursuant to Act

89, Session Laws of Hawaii 1996, as amended, and to consider alternative licensing program structures or models that are in the best interest of private trade, vocational, and technical schools and for students in the State of Hawaii.” In addition, the working group is to consider a licensing process that protects consumers from “false, deceptive, misleading, and unfair practices” by private trade, vocational, and technical schools (“PTVT Schools”), as well as ensuring adequate educational quality at these schools. Interested stakeholders are to be part of the working group’s discussions. Finally, a report is requested of the departments’ findings ahead of the 2016 legislative session.

The Senate Committee on Education amended these Resolutions on March 20, 2015 to incorporate requests made by the DOE. Although the DOE amendments shifted the focus of these Resolutions to highlight the need to increase protection of consumers against “false, deceptive, misleading, or unfair practices” by PTVT Schools – rather than on ensuring that adequate educational services are provided by these schools as part of the dual purpose indicated in Act 57, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998 – it is not clear to the DCCA at this time that there has been an increase in the kinds of negative activities perpetrated against students of PTVT Schools that these Resolutions seem to imply in their current form. However, the DCCA fully supports adequate protections for consumers in the State, and would support appropriate action if found to be necessary after thoughtful consideration.

In addition, the Department recommends that the Resolutions provide that the working group consider the possible impact on existing schools and students that would result from the establishment of alternative licensing program structures, including any

Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46, S.D. 1
and Senate Resolution No. 20, S.D. 1
April 7, 2015
Page 3

potential fee increases from changes to the DOE's long-standing licensing fee structures that would result from program restructuring.

Thus, recognizing the Legislature's and the DOE's desires to evaluate the existing PTVT School licensing program and to consider alternative methods or models for licensing these institutions, DCCA does not object to these Resolutions, with the proposed amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Date: 04/07/2015

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 046, SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE TRADE, VOCATIONAL, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) strongly supports SCR 46 SD1.

The Department looks forward to establishing a joint working group co-led by the Department of Education and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to evaluate and review the current licensing of private trade, vocational, and technical schools, and to consider alternative licensing program structures or models.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 46 SD1.