



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

Date: 02/04/2020

Time: 02:30 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2603 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program that provides grants for high school students enrolled in a career academy program to enroll in college courses through the running start program or other similar programs that allow students to earn college credits that are applicable to the requirements for an associate degree in teaching. Expands the eligibility criteria for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program to include students who have graduated from a career academy; provided that the loan recipient agrees to teach for three years at a public school in the State. Appropriates funds into and out of the Hawaii educator loan program revolving fund. Requires reports to Legislature.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2603.

The Department acknowledges the shortage of qualified teachers; as such, the Department has taken a multi-prong approach to finding qualified teachers. This bill addresses one such avenue by directly encouraging high school students to consider a career in the high-demand field of teaching by allowing ease of access to college credits and by expanding eligibility requirements for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program.

As a note, the Department would like to point out the existence of the Early College dual credit program, which was funded by the legislature. As of school year 2017-2018, 38 eligible schools are participating in the Early College dual credit program. The participating schools include all 16 academy high schools plus 23 comprehensive high schools in the Department. Additionally, 12 high schools utilize online distance learning dual credit courses, which include seven on the neighbor islands and five on Oahu.

In school year 2019-2020, 14 high schools offered the education program of study in the

Department's Career and Technical Education (CTE) public and human services pathway; of the 14 schools, 10 are academy high schools and four are comprehensive high schools. In school year 2018-2019, the total student enrollment in the education program of study in all high schools was 352.

The Department is appreciative of the ongoing partnership with the University of Hawaii System and is committed to increasing participation in the education program of study in academy and comprehensive high schools to build a pipeline of future educators.

The Department thanks the legislature for its continued support for expanding opportunities for our students to improve their career readiness. We also urge your consideration in expanding the eligibility of students who graduate from an education program of study from CTE programs at any of the Department's high schools, not only limiting them to those with career academies.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2603.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 1, 2020

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice-Chair
Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2603 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: February 4, 2020
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program that provides grants for high school students enrolled in a career academy program to enroll in college courses through the running start program or other similar programs that allow students to earn college credits that are applicable to the requirements for an associate degree in teaching. Expands the eligibility criteria for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program to include students who have graduated from a career academy; provided that the loan recipient agrees to teach for three years at a public school in the State. Appropriates funds into and out of the Hawaii educator loan program revolving fund. Requires reports to Legislature.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION:
Comments (with suggested amendments)

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL appreciates the opportunity to offer comments and suggested amendments for H.B. 2603.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

We respectfully request that:

- **Early childhood education be included among the options available to students through the pilot program if this bill is enacted; and**

- **The expansion of the Hawaii Educator Loan Program include students in early childhood education. We note that S.B. No. 2052 expands the Hawaii Educator Loan Program specifically to include early childhood education professionals, and prefer the language included in that bill, noting the following suggested amendments:**
 - **To include teachers in the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program; and**
 - **As proposed by DHS and HTSB.**

Early childhood education is one of the industries and fields in Hawaii that are sorely lacking a pool of qualified workforce candidates.

It is precisely during the earliest years before brain development is largely complete (before kindergarten), and particularly for those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need the best educators. We do not want to promote inequity.

As we work to increase access to qualified early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must focus on addressing the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators (i.e., those with coursework and background in early childhood, and supported with ongoing professional development, who research shows are most effective). Even as the EOEL Public Pre-K Program stands now with just over 40 classrooms across the state, we have difficulty recruiting and turnover is high. This can be attributed in part to the fact that over half of the teachers in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program have not completed coursework in early childhood education and assumptions about pre-K teaching that are inconsistent with the knowledge and competencies required of teachers in settings for preschool-aged children.

Unqualified teachers don't have the requisite understanding to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, what may result are increased instances of stress-induced behavior problems, inappropriate referrals to special education, and suspensions or expulsions.

Given the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators in the state, we believe a workforce readiness program such as that proposed in this bill would be mutually beneficial for both the community and our students who are interested in entering the field of early childhood education.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2603

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:55:49 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. I think it is a great idea to immediately start at the high school level in building up students' interest towards being an educator. Teachers are in demand and sometimes the lack of exposure to the field can be the problem to why students don't choose this career path. Plus, if students are earning college credits they most likely will continue/finish in that route. College is expensive, you wouldn't want to waste credits you've already earned.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 2:30 pm

By

Dr. Nathan Murata

Dean, College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2603 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2603, which provides grants for high school students enrolled in a career academy program to enroll in college courses through the running start program or other similar programs that allow students to earn college credits.

The College of Education supports this bill, provided that its passage does not impact our BOR Approved Budget. This measure establishes a pilot program that provides grants for high school schools to enroll in college courses, expand opportunities for prospective future teachers as a model that could be replicated, expand the Hawai'i educator loan program, and the continued development of career academies.

The delivery of high-quality professional opportunities, support for potential students in high school, and teacher preparation in high-demand career fields is essential to the economy and to prevent disruption in key sectors. In order to arrive at a high-quality program, the college will work closely with all interested parties to ensure academic quality and work force success.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2603.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL
94-1211 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH HAYASHI, PRINCIPAL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL
TO COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020, 2:30 pm
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HB 2603

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of House Bill (H.B.) 2603 to a pilot program that provides grants for high school students enrolled in a career academy program to enroll in college courses through the running start program, Early College or other similar programs that allow students to earn college credits that are applicable to the requirements for an associate degree in teaching. I also stand in support of the expansion of the eligibility criteria for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program to include students who have graduated from a career academy.

Waipahu High School is a career academy school that prepares students for college and careers. Our model academies are accredited by the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) and follow National Standards of Practice. One of the ten standards of practice is to provide high school student with opportunities to take Early College and Running Start courses that lead to completion of a degree, like the Associate in Science in Teaching (AST) degree.

Support of HB 2603 is also in alignment with the mission and purpose of the Academy structure at Waipahu High School in that it links students with peers, teachers, and community partners in a structured environment that nurtures academic success. In terms of community partners, Waipahu High School proudly acknowledges the vibrant partnership with Leeward Community College and the University of Hawaii, College of Education. The Academy of Professional and Public Services, in which the Teacher

Education Pathway lies, offers advanced technical and specialized courses in concert with Early College and Running Start that successfully integrate career and academic preparation.

By passing HB 2603, you will be helping to establish a vertically articulated course of study that helps the State of Hawaii address the teaching shortage with our own home-grown teachers.