



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

Date: 03/13/2020

Time: 02:05 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

House Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2065, SD1 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2065, SD1 to establish a workforce readiness program provided it does not adversely impact the Department's Board-approved budget.

Engaging stakeholders across education, business, industry, and higher education is vital to creating a qualified field of students for in-demand occupations. Currently, internships and apprenticeships are initiated at the school-level as part of a high school's academy, early college, and career and technical education (CTE) pathways. National leaders are facilitating a process with 14 Hawaii public high school teams on a robust academy design aligned to the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC). This cohort is offering industry-recognized certificates in partnership with the University of Hawaii Community Colleges and Hawaii Pacific Health. The vision is to ensure a coordinated seamless response by Hawaii's lower and higher public education systems to our local, regional and global economic and labor demands.

The Hawaii Community School for Adults, as a core partner of Hawaii's Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act, worked collaboratively with the Workforce Development Council, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Department of Human Service's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, along with employers in the job market and the community colleges

to design an inter-agency workforce development program for students with an expressed interest in pursuing trades and other employment opportunities.

The Department is strongly committed to supporting, strengthening, and advancing a consolidated statewide effort by schools and complex areas to prepare secondary students for a career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certifications, and/or college credit to contribute to the vitality of Hawaii's workforce.

To provide for operational flexibility, we would ask that page 3, line 13-14 be amended to read: (e) The department may ~~shall~~ adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section."

Lastly, the Department is appreciative of the budgetary appropriation included in this measure and is reviewing the resources necessary to launch a workforce readiness program beginning school year 2020-2021.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2065, SD1.

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
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 13, 2020

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair,
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair,
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair,
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Friday, March 13, 2020
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. No. 2065 S.D.1 RELATING TO SCHOOLS

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB2065 SD1 proposes to amend Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section to establish a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education (DOE) to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to the DOE for positions and to develop and implement the program.

The DLIR supports the intent of this measure provided it does not conflict with the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

With the increasing number of Hawaii's students opting to not pursue a college education and move directly to the workforce after graduation, many public schools have been developing industry specific curriculums to meet the high demand for workers in shortage areas. The DLIR will work with the DOE on the coordination effort set forth in the measure.



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

March 10, 2020

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

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** S.B. No. 2065, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS
Hearing Date: March 13, 2020
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers. Effective 7/1/2050.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Comments

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on S.B. 2065, S.D. 1.

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.

If this measure is enacted, we respectfully request that early childhood education be included in implementation of the workforce readiness program. 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 including ALICE families – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need qualified educators. It is critical to promote equity.

Unqualified teaching staff do not 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 ... all of which may incur high costs to the State, and opposite of what high-quality early learning programs are intended to do.

In our work over the years to achieve the goal of expanding access to early learning, we realized the gravity of the need to address 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). One of the things we've learned from our Program as well as our collaborative work across private and public partners in the field is that most if not all of us cannot find enough qualified staff to expand quickly.

We have been in discussions with legislators, and working with higher education and other stakeholders statewide to find creative ways to increase our early learning workforce to achieve the Legislature's vision.

Given the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators in the state, we believe that incentives 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. Students would work toward a Child Development Associate certificate; for example, this would allow them to work as an educational assistant in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** S.B. No. 2065, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS
Hearing Date: March 13, 2020
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers.

Early Learning Board's Position: Comments

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on behalf of the ELB related to S.B. No. 2065, S.D. 1.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. We are composed of members from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

ELB's mission is to support children's academic and lifelong well-being by directing and supporting the EOEL for an effective, coordinated, high-quality early learning system from prenatal to kindergarten entry. 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.

If this measure is enacted, the ELB respectfully requests that early childhood education be included in the implementation of the workforce readiness program. Early childhood education is one of the industries and fields in Hawaii that is sorely lacking a pool of qualified workforce candidates.

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).

Given the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators in the state, the ELB believes that incentives as proposed in this bill would benefit both the community and our students who are interested in entering the field of early childhood education. Students could work toward a Child Development Associate certificate; this would allow them to be an educational assistant in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program, for example.

Thank you for your consideration.



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Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Lower and Higher Education and Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Rep. Justin H. Woodson and Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chairs
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Rep. Sean Quinlan, and Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 13, 2020
TIME: 2:05pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: SB2065 SD1 Relating to Schools

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA supports efforts to align educational curriculum to workforce readiness. One of the biggest challenges of doing business in Hawaii right now is lack of skilled, trained workers. Many of our member companies would be interested in collaborating with high schools, the Department of Education Adult Community Schools, community colleges, and the workforce development council to create this program. We believe that increasing workforce readiness will have benefits for Hawaii employees, Hawaii business, and Hawaii consumers.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2065-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:51:28 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2065-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:44:54 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Rabino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support for S.B. No. 2065, Relating to Schools

Hi, my name is Diana and I am writing in support of the bill SB2065 regarding a workforce readiness program being added to the education system here in the State of Hawai'i. I am a high school student here in the islands and I can say that many students including myself would really appreciate having this program in our school.

With this program, we would be able to achieve our dream jobs and careers much faster while learning many important work skills along the way. Many students can't afford to go to college, especially out of state. This program allows them to get their degree while still being very close to home which is a lower cost for them. Also, students who go through this program will most likely have better financial stability after high school.

I hope this bill will pass because it allows the students to have a better future for themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Diana Rabino

SB-2065-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 10:47:03 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

LATE**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camille Landon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Support for Bill No., SB2065, Relating to Schools

Hi, my name is Camille and I am writing in support of the bill SB2065 regarding a workforce readiness program being added to the education system here in the State of Hawaii. I am a student in a high school here in the islands and I can say that many students including myself would really appreciate having this program in our school.

With this program, we would be able to achieve our dream jobs/careers much faster while learning many important work skills along the way. Many students can't afford to go to college especially out of state, so with the workforce readiness program, they can get their degree while still being very close to home which lowers costs for them. Also, students who go through this program will most likely have better financial stability after high school.

The workforce readiness program would be highly beneficial to Hawaii's youth. I write this in hopes that the bill will pass. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.