



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.

By

Erika Lacro, Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 844 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 844, which establishes a Network Improvement Community Task Force to develop K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher education degree; appropriates funds for the establishment of a STEM Entrepreneur-Resident at the University of Hawai'i Maui College; and appropriates funds for University of Hawai'i Maui College's Office of International and Regional Partnerships for study abroad programs.

There is an extreme need for STEM teachers on Maui and throughout the state, and this bill aims to address this issue. Extending study abroad opportunities will enhance student learning at UH Maui College.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 844, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program does not supplant any portion of the University's budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 844.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/08/2023
Time: 02:15 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Higher Education & Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0844 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes, and appropriates funds for, a Network Improvement Community Task Force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teacher education degree for the University of Hawaii and report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds for the establishment of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Entrepreneur-Resident at the University of Hawaii Maui College. Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii Maui College's Office of International and Regional Partnerships for study abroad programs.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 844. The Department supports the intent to develop a K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher degree program to address the shortage of qualified STEM teachers in Hawaii, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our recently adopted Board of Education Strategic Plan.

The Department notes that the work of the proposed task force, described in Part I of the measure, overlaps with the charge of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) established under §304A-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department recommends that this work be incorporated under the TECC with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for task force members.

As to Part II of this measure, the Department respectfully defers to the University of Hawaii system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 844.

HB-844

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:52:32 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/8/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stong support. Will help our keiki be more compitive in the future job market. The benefit is likely geometirc as the students will be in a better position to help friends and family members with STEM-related topics and pursuits.