

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN
EDUCATION WITH AN ONLINE OPTION AT LEEWARD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF WORKING ADULTS
IN ALL COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recognizes the importance of
2 providing accessible pathways to education and addressing the
3 need for qualified teachers in our communities; and
4

5 WHEREAS, there is a growing demand for online educational
6 programs to accommodate working adults who aspire to become
7 teachers; and
8

9 WHEREAS, all State of Hawaii counties face unique
10 challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified educators to
11 meet the educational needs of their schools and communities; and
12

13 WHEREAS, there is a need for more baccalaureate degree
14 programs at the University of Hawaii Community Colleges to
15 expand access to educational opportunities to all Hawaii
16 counties; and
17

18 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for teaching programs in
19 rural areas to address current teacher shortages; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community
22 College's accreditation allows the college to offer up to two
23 applied baccalaureate degree programs; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community
26 College's existing Teacher Education programs are already
27 offered statewide through the internet and include upper
28 division curriculum; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Teachers Association and the
31 Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation both
32 recognize the teacher education programs at Leeward Community
33 College for teacher education and licensing; and
34



1 WHEREAS, new programs at Leeward Community College can
2 become extensions for interested students enrolled in other
3 University of Hawaii community colleges who are interested in
4 the teacher pathway; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the development of a baccalaureate degree program
7 in education with an online option at Leeward Community College
8 would be tailored for individuals who are employed outside of
9 the education system and seeking to enter the teaching
10 profession, currently teaching as emergency hires, and
11 substitute teaching at Department of Education public school
12 classroom; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Legislature passed Act 141, Session Laws of
15 Hawaii 2022, which required the University of Hawaii to
16 establish Kindergarten through grade 12 expanded teaching cohort
17 programs in each county for students who are pursuing
18 undergraduate degrees in education; now, therefore,

19
20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that:

23
24 (1) The University of Hawaii Community Colleges are urged
25 to establish a baccalaureate degree program in
26 education with an online option at Leeward Community
27 College;

28
29 (2) Funds be re-allocated from within the University of
30 Hawaii community colleges for resources to:

31
32 (A) Facilitate the implementation of the Bachelor of
33 Education degree teacher education program with
34 an online option; and

35
36 (B) Support initiatives addressing the educational
37 needs in all counties through existing University
38 of Hawaii community colleges; and

39
40 (3) Relevant stakeholders, including the Department of
41 Education, Board of Education, community leaders, and
42 educational institutions, are urged to:



S.R. NO. 178

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

- (A) Support and promote the collaborative efforts outlined in this resolution;
- (B) Further promote access to quality education;
- (C) Address teacher shortage issues caused by lack of recruitment and retention; and
- (D) Support the professional development of current and future educators throughout the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii System, University Vice President for Community Colleges, and University of Hawaii Leeward Community College Chancellor.

OFFERED BY: *Amie Merali Ko*

