



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**

650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**PERSON TESTIFYING:** Mitzie Higa, Licensing Specialist, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standard Board (HTSB)

**DATE:** February 13, 2024

**TIME:** 3:01 pm

**LOCATION:** Conference Room 229 and Video Conference

**TITLE OF BILL:** SB 3209 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, UH; College of Education; Expanded Teacher Cohort Program; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation (\$)

**PURPOSE OF BILL:** Appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.

**POSITION:** Support

**Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education**

**The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB3209, relating to the University of Hawai'i.**

We love the idea of expanding teacher cohorts for teacher candidates to be a part of in every county to grow our own teachers. The cohort approach in each county is a great step in the right direction and has proven to be very successful. Our aspiring teachers need more support with respect to availability of courses throughout the UH system, particularly on the neighbor islands. Additionally, we agree about the need for expanded K-12 teaching cohort programs, both for our current teachers, as well as for those students working to become teachers. **This program needs to be funded in order for UH to be able to hire the FTE positions they need to facilitate each of these cohorts. HTSB also believes that the existing "Grow Your Own" programs should be expanded to reach this goal and we would highly encourage this expansion in every county.**

HTSB believes that part of what the state needs to focus on for teacher recruitment and retention is the expansion and support available in various pipelines in our state that work with our state university systems, and the cohort model is definitely one of them. We need to support our educator pipeline that supports our aspiring teachers, and this bill needs to be funded to be part of that support.

To provide a more structural support for teachers and aspiring teachers in Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board requests that you **support** this bill.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 3:01 p.m.

By

Nathan Murata, Dean  
College of Education

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### SB 3209 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3209, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Act 141 requires the University of Hawai'i to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education in each county. However, no funding was provided.

The University of Hawai'i, College of Education (COE) is committed to establishing an expanded cohort program. While the majority of COE programs are online and delivered statewide, we know that expanding our offerings is critical to building capacity on the neighbor islands and to increase the pipeline of “grow our own” educators. The COE will also work closely with the Hawai'i Department of Education, and all UH system campuses in order to streamline programs for students pursuing undergraduate degrees in education and to stabilize the Department of Education's workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, provided its adoption does not impact the priorities indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.



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

**Date:** 02/13/2024

**Time:** 03:01 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 3209 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education for the establishment of seven full-time equivalent (7.0 FTE) positions and additional program costs for the expanded teacher cohort program to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3209, but would defer to the University of Hawaii as to its implementation.

SB 3209 establishes seven full-time equivalent (7.0 FTE) positions within the University of Hawaii, College of Education to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. These positions should provide the necessary support for educator preparation statewide.

The expansion of teacher preparation programs in conjunction with the Department's high school education academies, internships, stipend opportunities, and targeted recruitment efforts will help to increase the pipeline of local teachers necessary to ensure an effective educator workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



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**Osa Tui, Jr.**  
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**Logan Okita**  
Vice President

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Executive Director

## TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Item: **SB3209 - Relating to the University of Hawai'i**  
Position: **Support**  
Hearing: **February 13, 2024, 3:01 p.m., Conference Room 229**  
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** SB3209 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education for the establishment of seven full-time equivalent (7.0 FTE) positions and additional program costs for the expanded teacher cohort program to fulfill the requirements of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.

HSTA lauds the goals of Act 141 (2022) to expand teaching cohort programs to every county in the state. Aspiring educators from across the state deserve access to in-person staff as they pursue careers in teaching to educate the keiki of Hawai'i. In order to accomplish this goal, however, personnel must be allocated and funded. Accomplishing this will go a long way towards recruiting local talent to the teaching profession who are less likely to leave the state as they decide to start families, coordinate child care, and other things needed for long-term career retention as their support systems are more likely to be here in the islands.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



The Committee on Higher Education  
February 13, 2024  
3:01 PM  
Room 229

RE: **SB 3209, Relating to the University of Hawaii**

Attention: Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the  
Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 3209**, Relating to the University of Hawaii.

SB 3209 establishes seven FTE positions, including faculty positions, within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education. These positions will enable the full implementation of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, to establish a K-12 expanded teaching cohort program in each county for students pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. More specifically, the positions will provide oversight and administrative support for the programs on each island, conduct field supervision, teach courses, recruit and advise candidates, and serve as the point of contact between the College of Education and the neighbor island cohorts.

To ensure the recruitment and retention of the program positions, it is essential for the FTE appropriation to have a recurring, general funded designation.

**UHPA supports and requests the passage of SB 3209.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly