

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:37:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a voting constituent residing in the Salt Lake/Moanalua neighborhood (Wakai/Senate and Ichiyama/House), I am submitting my support for SB420.

Mahalo,

Marissa Elizabeth Ku'uipo Baptista

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:25:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Mendelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, I support measures to help transition recent graduates into work life after high school. Too often, young adults lose their support networks upon graduation. Access to their college counselors, mental health counselors, and other caring adults diminishes. As a community, we need to provide greater avenues to ensure young adults successfully continue to pursue their goals. Yes, this bill seems to remove some of the barriers to internships, so I support this measure.

Thank you,



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

**Date:** 02/05/2025

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Labor and Technology

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** SB 0420 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in Department of Education-sponsored work-based learning programs.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 420, which provides workers' compensation coverage for new high school graduates participating in Department-sponsored work-based learning programs through July 31 of the graduate's high school graduation year.

To assist new high school graduates as they transition to their post-secondary plans, the Department offers the new graduates various supports during the summer following their graduation, including college and career advising, training, and internships. Work-based learning opportunities, such as industry-led summer training and internships, are an extension of our new graduates' Career and Technical Education programs of study that enable them to further develop the skills needed to succeed in the workforce. Planning and preparation for these internships take place during the graduates' senior year. This bill would provide our new graduates the same coverage as our continuing students.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's support of our work-based learning initiatives and our goal for all students to be globally competitive and locally committed. Preparing our students for the current and emerging workforce here at home will not only address our workforce needs, but will also lead to a thriving Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:42:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pilialoha Callahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of bill SB420 and allowing newley graduated students the grace of one year after their graduation to be eligible for Workers Comp.



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION and  
LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224  
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 AT 3:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Labor and Technology  
To The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Labor and Technology

**SUPPORT SB420 RELATING TO QUALIFIED INTERNSHIP TAX CREDIT**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB420** which allows newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in Department of Education-sponsored work-based learning programs.

The Chamber understands that the Department of Education is actively pursuing internship opportunities for students, including those who have recently graduated from high school. However, the department has encountered a challenge: once students graduate, they are no longer considered enrolled and therefore are not covered by workers' compensation while participating in department-sponsored work-based learning opportunities during the summer following graduation.

We believe this measure will benefit businesses that wish to bring students on board for work-based learning programs without incurring the additional cost of adding a temporary employee or intern to their workers' compensation liability.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB420**. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter and respectfully ask that you pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, at 3:00PM  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**LATE**

### RE: SB420 Relating to Education

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

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 420 (SB420), which allows newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in Department of Education-sponsored work-based learning programs.

SB420 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Business Services. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Ensuring students' success beyond high school requires real-world work experience. The Department of Education's 2023-2029 strategic plan emphasizes internships and work-based learning but does not provide workers' compensation coverage for graduates participating in these programs during the summer after high school. Without coverage, students may be discouraged from gaining valuable hands-on experience.

This legislation addresses the gap by extending workers' compensation to recent graduates in department-sponsored work-based learning programs until July 31 of their graduation year. By ensuring student safety, it promotes career readiness and strengthens school-employer partnerships. The Chamber's Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Department works in partnership with the Hawaii DOE to create systems and guidance for educators and employers to implement internships. Through previous work with employers, this bill would alleviate concerns from employers for workers compensation and give the DOE additional oversight for student safety.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 420. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.