

February 18, 2026

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair



Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 1:02 p.m.
Conference Room #229 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

RE: SB 3062 Relating to Liquor

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānakūli, Wai'anae, and Mākaha. We work on behalf of our members and the broader business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and to help West O'ahu businesses thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 3062**, which allows the University of Hawai'i and its campuses, as well as state libraries, to utilize liquor in certain educational settings without obtaining liquor licenses, subject to specific limitations.

Bringing the Business Community On-Campus

The Kapolei Chamber currently has a strong partnership with the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, which hosts many of our programs, including:

- **BIZ Talks** – featuring entrepreneurs “on stage” in the Academy of Creative Media, providing TED Talk–style mentoring opportunities for future entrepreneurs
- **Kapolei Chamber Signature Breakfast Panel Events**
- **Kapolei Chamber Signature Annual Holiday Luncheons**

Pau Hana Networking for Educators and Employers on Campus

The Kapolei Chamber's signature Pau Hana Networking events have been a cornerstone of our work for over a decade. **The heart of how we do business in Hawai'i is rooted in relationships.** Creating intentional opportunities to connect educators and employers through a professional networking environment promotes partnerships and work-based learning opportunities for students.

Providing alcoholic beverages in a professional networking setting reflects real-world business environments. Having the ability to responsibly provide alcoholic beverages while bringing employers onto campus will enhance the campus experience and strengthen the work we are doing together. This approach supports relationship-building in a culturally appropriate and responsible manner.

Workforce development is especially important in West O'ahu, the fastest-growing region in the state. As population and economic activity continue to expand, **connecting students to viable career pathways through work-based learning is essential.** The Kapolei Chamber has established itself as a **Career Hub**, working in partnership with the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, the Hawai'i State Department of Education, and local employers to **strengthen the pipeline from K-12 to postsecondary education and into the workforce.** As a Career Hub, we have successfully implemented creative and meaningful ways to engage West O'ahu employers in supporting career exploration and work-based learning, including student career expos and internships.

We are excited to add Pau Hana Networking for Educators and Employers to this platform and respectfully request the opportunity to do so with the responsible service of alcohol on campus, as contemplated under SB 3062.

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

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director & CEO



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
February 18, 2026 at 1:02 p.m.

By

Lui Hokoana

Interim Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 3062 – RELATING TO LIQUOR.

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) stands in strong support of SB 3062. This measure provides a necessary and narrow exemption that will allow our campuses to focus on their core mission: preparing students for the workforce.

Currently, our culinary and hospitality programs are forced to navigate a complex, county-by-county licensing process just to fulfill basic curriculum requirements. This creates a disconnect between the classroom and the industry. For a student to meet global accreditation standards, they must understand the chemistry of alcohol in food preparation—such as deglazing and reductions—and the logistics of beverage management. SB 3062 removes the "commercial" red tape that currently treats a classroom like a private bar.

While the University fully supports the intent of this bill, we respectfully offer three amendments to ensure the language aligns with our actual operational needs:

1. Broaden Program Eligibility for Emerging Industries

We suggest expanding the list of exempted fields to include emerging technical and agricultural sciences. Providing these students with hands-on laboratory and field training is essential for workforce readiness and aligns with the requirements of established vocational arts. Hawaii is seeing growth in local brewing and agricultural sciences; our students in these emerging fields need the same hands-on training as those in culinary arts.

2. Standardizing Server Training

The University remains committed to the highest safety standards. We propose an amendment requiring that any student or staff member selling liquor to the public (through our laboratory dining rooms) must complete a Liquor Commission-approved server training (e.g., "yellow card" training). This ensures our students are not just trained in cooking, but in the legal and safe service of alcohol before they enter the workforce.

3. Clarifying Public Sales

To ensure we are good neighbors to our local business community, we suggest clarifying that public sales must be incidental to the educational programming. This ensures our campus restaurants function as training labs—not as commercial competitors to the local bars and restaurants that we aim to staff with our graduates.

To achieve the above and the intent of SB 3062, we would suggest the following friendly amendments to SB 3062, as the language pertains to the University:

"§281- Liquor; limited license exemption. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or any other law to the contrary, the following entities may utilize, serve, or sell liquor without obtaining a liquor license under part III; provided that the entities comply with section 281-4(c), HRS, and any student or employee serving or selling alcohol must satisfactorily complete the applicable county liquor commission-approved server training and test:

(1) The university of Hawaii and its campuses, solely to support education and training in culinary arts, hospitality, fermentation sciences, or a related field of study; provided further that liquor may be sold to the general public if incidental to the educational programs; and....

In closing, SB 3062 is a practical modernization of our statutes. It trusts the University to manage its internal safety policies (EP11.202) while giving our students the industry-standard training they deserve.



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

Date: 02/09/2026

Time: 01:05 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: EDU

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB3062, RELATING TO LIQUOR.

Purpose of Bill: Provides that the University of Hawaii and its campuses and state libraries may utilize liquor in certain educational settings without obtaining liquor licenses, subject to certain limitations.

Department's Position:

As this is a regulatory issue, we defer to the appropriate agency for comment, but would like to provide comments and information on SB 3062 for the committee's consideration.

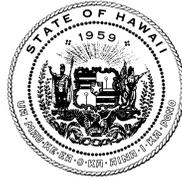
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes that the overall purpose of SB 3062 is consistent with its goals of College and Career Readiness / Workforce Development. However, Hawaii State Public Libraries are co-located at various Department campuses. As such, liquor possession or use of alcohol is strictly prohibited on Department campuses, in offices, and at Department-sponsored activities in accordance with BOE Policy 305-7, *Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use*, the Department's Code of Conduct, and Hawaii Administrative Rules (Chapter 8-19). Additionally, state law (HRS § 281-39.5) prevents the issuance of liquor licenses to any establishment located within 500 feet of an elementary, intermediate, or high school to further limit alcohol presence near campuses. This aligns with state and federal laws, including the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

The Department recommends adding the underlined text to subsection (2): State libraries that are not located on Department of Education property or near public schools as provided in applicable rules and laws, solely for purposes of an educational exhibition; provided further that liquor shall not be sold to the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to SB 3062.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-3704

Senate Committee on Education
February 18, 2026, 1:02 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229
SB 3062 – Relating to Liquor

To: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports the intent** of SB3062 as it provides that the University of Hawaii and its campuses and state libraries may utilize liquor in certain educational settings without obtaining a liquor license, subject to certain limitations.

The HSPLS requests language clarifying the following:

- whether the intent of paragraph (2) is intended to be very broad and include all state-funded libraries (which could include school libraries), or to limit the measure to specific types of libraries such as public libraries; and
- The term “educational exhibition”.

For the term “educational exhibition”, the HSPLS respectfully requests that the Committee consider expanding the definition to include special events held at public libraries, such as events hosted by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii which fundraises to directly support Hawaii's public library system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB3062 and for your continued support of the Hawai'i State Public Library System.

SB-3062

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 12:39:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/18/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, OPPOSE

3062 SB RELATING TO LIQUOR.