



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by
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HB 1169 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1169 that will provide funds for the University to promote teaching as a career to high school students.

According to the Hawai'i Department of Education, there are critical and persistent shortage areas in special education, STEM, Hawaiian, CTE, and English. Our campuses are working with established programs to meet these needs, and to increase the number of teachers in the state.

The University recently began system wide discussions to address the critical teacher shortage in Hawai'i. The two specific areas of focus are increased attention on the recruitment of candidates for the multiple programs that prepare teachers for licensure, and working with the Hawai'i Department of Education to retain in-service teachers. Another identified strategy is to work directly with high school students interested in a career in education.

Several UH campuses are currently working with high schools that provide programs for students interested in teaching, such as teacher academies. The University is also in discussion about which education courses would be appropriate to offer through Early College. HB 1169 would help the University to reach more students about the benefits of a degree in education while promoting teaching, particularly in those critical areas.

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1169 on the condition that any appropriated funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.