



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Education
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By
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 621 – RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Chairs Kahele and Kidani and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 621. This bill will require “the University of Hawai'i to collaborate with the department of education and department of business, economic development, and tourism to develop and implement an interactive web tool, similar to the Launch My Career web tool.” The University supports such an initiative and in fact has spent the last year and a half creating a web site that does most of what it outlined in Bill SB 621. The University of Hawaii's new website organizes all the jobs in the state of Hawaii into sector grouping. Each job in the state has its own landing page and these landing pages detail current demand, projected demand, salary ranges, degree levels actually hired by industry, skill sets required by industry, and a listing of companies that are hiring. In addition, the web site shows how DOE pathways lead to programs in the University of Hawai'i and then into industry. The site answers crucial questions for students such as what levels of education qualify the student for which jobs. The website can visualize the entire economy and also heat map that visualization of Hawai'i sectors and jobs. There is still much work to be done but this home grown effort seems to address many of the needs in the bill.

The University has had meetings on this site with the DOE and will continue to seek advice and collaboration from the DOE. DBEDT has been briefed on the project as well. UHCC supports the intent of this bill but feels that the current workforce tool project accomplishes much of what is asked for in this bill and deserves further focus and development.

Thanks for including this testimony in your considerations.