



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony for the  
House Committee on Education and the  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 2:10 pm  
Conference Room 309

Submitted by  
Dr. Linda K. Johnsrud, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost,  
University of Hawai'i

### SB2789, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and  
Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of SB2789, SD2 which provides the Hawai'i Department of  
Education the directive, means and flexibility to improve teacher and principal  
effectiveness so that Hawaii's youth can achieve future success.

The University of Hawai'i educates the majority of Hawaii's teachers, preparing them to  
be educators who impact the lives of our keiki, Hawaii's future. However, upon receipt  
of their degree, the graduates still have much to learn from their professional practice,  
and we hope to have instilled in them a culture of life-long learning. As with all  
professions, it is important that educators receive effective evaluation and feedback so  
that they learn and grow in their profession.

This bill is essential to clarify and reinforce the authority of the Hawai'i DOE to  
implement an evaluation system for teachers and principals and improve outcomes for  
our students. This is not about punishing our hard-working teachers; it is about having  
an effective evaluation tool that can measure progress and provide feedback so that  
teaching can continually improve. Student outcomes as a factor will be included, but it  
will include professional practice as well. We are especially pleased that the evaluation  
system will include feedback from current teachers and principals who are involved in  
the pilot program.

Having a strong evaluation system can only improve student outcomes, which are  
absolutely critical to the future of our state. Our youth need to be prepared for college or  
a living-wage job, and improving educator effectiveness is a key element to achieving  
those outcomes.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.