



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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
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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.