



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
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By
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HB 650 – RELATING TO TEACHER RETENTION

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

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education opposes HB 650 as it would create implementation challenges along with the duplication of duties.

The HIDEO provides information on teacher recruitment and retention. There are data to show separation of services and plans for retention efforts. For instance, the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is an advisory committee that identifies studies, takes action, or makes recommendations on education matters of common interest to the Department and the institutions of higher learning in Hawai'i. A five-year plan that addresses topics the TECC members identified as important and actionable items were prioritized with objectives, strategies, and key activities. These priorities were identified: 1) build new capacity locally, 2) increase satisfaction of in-service teachers, 3) provide meaningful incentives for recruitment and retention, 4) effectively market the teaching profession, 5) meet local needs with other approaches, and 6) improve special education teaching experience.

Reports are presented to the Legislature annually. Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.