



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 25, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

By  
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### HB 2159 HD1 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 2159 House Draft (HD) 1 relating to Workforce Development Boards. The University of Hawai'i (UH) provides comments on bill.

HB 2159 HD1 amends the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to change the title of the Workforce Development Council to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Board and amends composition of the board responsible for fulfilling duties required by the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

UH requests that bill be amended to include the UH President or President's designee as an ex-officio, non-voting member, alongside the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Superintendent of Education, among others.

UH provides a significant amount of workforce training and coordinates with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education on preparing students for the workforce, whether the postsecondary education and training requires short term, non-credit training, a degree, or more advanced training. UH's workforce programs include the UH community colleges which awarded more than 2,600 career and technical education Associates degrees or Certificates of Achievement and provided more than 16,000 non-credit workforce training opportunities in 2020-21. In 2020, in partnership with the Workforce Development Council, UH secured a 3-year, \$13.3 million federal workforce grant which is providing job training in healthcare, technology and skilled trades through the Hana Career Pathways program ([uhcc.hawaii.edu/training](http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/training)). Also, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, which is an administrative unit of UH, functions as the State Office of Career and Technical Education manages federal Perkins Career and Technical Education funds and develops career pathways from K-12 to higher education.

The state workforce development board is a forum for coordinating workforce development among agencies and funding sources. UH looks forward to continuing and strengthening our collaboration with the state workforce board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.