



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on  
Energy, Economic Development & Tourism  
And  
Education

Friday, February 8, 2019 at 2:45 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 365 – RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Wakai and Kidani, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Kim, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 365. The University of Hawai'i finds the intent of this bill laudable and provides the following comments.

This bill would require the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to develop and publish an annual economic development plan for each county. Based on these plans, the workforce development council would work with the department of education and the university of Hawai'i to develop and provide K-12 pathways and programs in each school that would prepare students for employment in the high-priority industries identified in the county plans. Additionally, internship programs would be identified that would give these students hands-on experience in these industries.

The University of Hawai'i has developed a website that is used by its students and by DoE schools to identify career opportunities and jobs in the economic sectors of Hawai'i's economy (<https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/workforce/index.php>). The site can be searched by industry, or by county and identifies degrees and credentials that are sought by employers. In addition, users can identify specific job advertisements, required skills, and the trend over time in number of job openings. This website could be linked to priority industries identified by DBEDT in each county, permitting easy mapping by the DoE schools to K-12 curricular pathways.

The University of Hawai'i will continue to work with both departments on incorporating this tool, and similar tools we are developing, in the K-12 curriculum. The University currently works towards this end with the workforce development council.

Resources would be required in both departments to implement the economic plans and to establish, monitor and supervise the internship programs called for in this bill. We respectfully recommend the bill be deferred to allow time for us to identify what would be needed to implement such a program across these agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.