Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 2:01 p.m.
By
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SCR 98 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH
THE HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR SCHOOL
SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO BECOME FULL-TIME TEACHERS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai‘i (UH) supports SCR 98 SD1, which requests the Department of
Education (DOE) to partner with the Hawai‘i State Teachers Association and Teacher Education
programs at local universities and colleges to provide pathways for school support personnel to
become full-time teachers.

The UH recognizes the strong demand for qualified teachers in the DOE and the importance of
providing strong educational pathways that lead local students to complete the required training
to fill vacant teaching positions in Hawai‘i. Developing clear teacher education pathways has
been a focus for the UH, and we are reviewing ways to enhance the existing pathways to meet
the state’s teacher educator shortage.

The UH offers a number of programs including programs at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
(UHM) such as a Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education, a Bachelor of Education in
Special Education, a Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education and Hawaiian Immersion
in a statewide hybrid format. Furthermore, UH West O’ahu offers an online Bachelor of
Education which is available statewide. UH Hilo recently gained Board of Regents approval to
offer a Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies this academic year to address teacher shortages
on Hawai‘i Island. The UHM also offers a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Early Education and
the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Secondary Education.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum alignment among pre-college, two-year, and
four-year providers can be complex and challenging to communicate to students and parents in
a simple and straightforward manner. We acknowledge the need for co-designed, shared
pathway maps that ensure students can move efficiently and effectively from the K-12 to post-
secondary educational system and into a career with the requisite job skills needed to be
successful in the workforce and earn a living wage job.

The UH are committed to continued collaboration with the DOE and Hawai‘i P-20 in order to
better serve the local communities in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 98 SD1.