



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:01 a.m.

By

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SB 1491 SD1 – RELATING TO DEPARTMENTAL DATA SHARING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support SB 1491 SD1 to include the Department of Taxation in the list of state agencies required to share data through the statewide longitudinal data system. By formalizing data-sharing practices with the Department of Taxation, we will be better equipped to track and analyze workforce outcomes. We defer to the Department of Business, Economic, Development, and Tourism on their inclusion in the language of the bill, but generally support the idea of data sharing for the purposes of longitudinal data analysis.

As it stands, the University of Hawai'i (UH) tracks post-graduation outcomes with some limitations. The most significant gaps involve the lack of data on individuals who are federally or self-employed, leaving the analysis incomplete. By adding the Department of Taxation to the agencies that share data, UH would be able to conduct more accurate and comprehensive analyses of post-graduate outcomes and labor market trends in Hawai'i, which in turn can inform policies and programs aimed at improving educational and workforce outcomes.

More complete data means better policy decisions. We could refine workforce development programs, adjust educational curricula, and create initiatives that better prepare graduates for real-world employment scenarios, ensuring that they are competitive in both the local and global economy.

I appreciate that the bill includes safeguards for privacy and confidentiality, ensuring that any data provided by the Department of Taxation will be aggregated or anonymized. This ensures compliance with federal privacy standards and assures the public that their personal data will remain secure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.