



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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By

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SB 96, SD 1 (SSCR 646): Relating to the Department of Education

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports the intent of SB 96, SD1, which is to protect children in public schools by requiring criminal record checks for providers and contractors.

However, we oppose the inclusion of student trainees in this bill for the following reasons. Students selected to our teacher preparation programs are carefully screened and once admitted, held to a high code of professional dispositions. All our student teachers (trainees) are required to submit to fingerprint checks prior to working in the public schools. This system is working well and we are unaware of any statistics that indicate that more extensive and more expensive criminal checks are required or will better protect the children in our schools.

Further, we also oppose the provision to pass on the cost of criminal checks to trainees. Such action will pose an undue financial burden on students at a time when tuition costs for all our institutions are rising.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.