



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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By

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### **SB 96: Relating to the Department of Education**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Committees:

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

However, we oppose the inclusion of student trainees in this bill for the following reasons. Students selected to our teacher preparation program 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.