



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

April 4, 2007

By

Donald B. Young, Interim Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 112/SR 69: Requesting the Department of Education to undertake a study to determine the most effective medium between “one size fits all” and “to each his own”.

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Young, and I am the Interim Dean of the College of Education at UH Mānoa.

SCR112 calls for an in-depth study to determine an appropriate balance between a single statewide curriculum and flexibility in selecting and delivering curriculum in our schools. It requires the Department of Education to work with the Hawai'i State Teachers Association and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to study the issues and report to the Legislature their recommendations. These issues have been the center of controversy and discussion for several years. We agree that it is time for a more thoughtful and considered approach to determining policy.

I respectfully submit that such a study is better placed and conducted by the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center with the same charge to work with the Department, HSTA, and HTSB to examine the issues and make recommendations. Further, the College of Education needs to be involved in such a study since outcomes will affect our teacher preparation programs and the curriculum research and development work of the faculty.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.