



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and Housing
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by

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SB 808 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER CADET PROGRAM

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

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports SB 808 and the Hawai'i Teacher Cadet Program.

The Vision of the Associate in Arts in Teaching (AAT) Program is to address the critical teacher shortage in the state of Hawai'i by preparing quality pre-service teachers who are locally educated and culturally sensitive to schools in their own communities. The program ensures the improvement of equity and access to teacher education for underrepresented groups and non-traditional students. Our vision is in direct alignment with the goals of the Teacher Cadet Programs.

The AAT program has established relationships with local high schools. The model of a 2 + 2 + 2 pipeline has been successful in attracting high school students to begin obtaining college credits through the Running Start program. These students typically come to campus having earned college credits in general education and education courses (ED100, Introduction to Teaching). In addition, the Teacher Cadet program currently established in high schools in our Leeward area provide recruits who enter the AAT education courses with knowledge of lesson preparation and delivery, as well as, an understanding of the teaching profession.

The goals of the AAT program are consistent with the goals set forth in strategic planning documents for the UH System and the UH Community Colleges by directly addressing workforce development. The AAT Vision which seeks to improve equity and access to teacher education for underrepresented groups, as well as to address the critical teacher shortage in the state (workforce development) reinforces the importance of allocating funds for the Teacher Cadet Programs.

As part of the report to the legislature, the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center included data published by the DOE with statistics demonstrating the high percentages of teacher turnover and school sites that are deemed "hard to staff." Out of a list of 49

statewide districts, 17 sites were listed from the Leeward and Central complexes. The improvement in the local supply of teacher licensure candidates, with commitment to the island communities that produce them, is critical if we are to meet the expected demand for teachers¹.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 808.

¹ The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center, Report to the 2008 Legislature, January, 2008