



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony for the
House Committee on Finance
Monday, April 2, 2012 at 3:00pm
By Linda K. Johnsrud
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost, University of Hawai'i

SB2789 SD2 HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I am writing in support of SB2789 SD2 HD1 which provides the Hawai'i Department of Education the directive, means and flexibility to improve teacher and principal effectiveness so that Hawaii's youth can achieve future success.

The University of Hawai'i educates the majority of Hawaii's teachers, preparing them to be educators who impact the lives of our keiki, Hawaii's future. However, upon receipt of their degree, the graduates still have much to learn from their professional practice, and we hope to have instilled in them a culture of life-long learning. As with all professions, it is important that educators receive effective evaluation and feedback so that they learn and grow in their profession.

This bill is essential to clarify and reinforce the authority of the Hawai'i DOE to implement an evaluation system for teachers and principals and improve outcomes for our students. This is not about punishing our hard-working teachers; it is about having an effective evaluation tool that can measure progress and provide feedback so that teaching can continually improve. Student outcomes as a factor will be included, but it will include professional practice as well. We are especially pleased that the evaluation system will include feedback from current teachers and principals who are involved in the pilot program.

Having a strong evaluation system can only improve student outcomes, which are absolutely critical to the future of our state. Our youth need to be prepared for college or a living-wage job, and improving educator effectiveness is a key element to achieving those outcomes.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.