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**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
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February 23, 2016

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

For Hearing on Friday, February 26, 2016  
9:35 a.m., Conference Room 211

BY

JAMES K. NISHIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

**Senate Bill No. 2543  
Relating to Education**

TO CHAIRPERSON TOKUDA, VICE CHAIRPERSON DELA CRUZ AND MEMBERS  
OF THE COMMITTEE:

SB 2543 adds as a purpose of the University of Hawai'i community college system the provision of occupational training and certification programs designed to rapidly qualify persons to fill new and hard-to-fill position classes for the State, counties, and private sector that require technical skills.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) **strongly supports** this bill as it will help the University of Hawai'i community colleges provide individuals with occupational and certification program career options to meet the workforce needs of the public and private sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 26, 2016 at 9:35 a.m.

By  
John Morton, VP for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i

### SB 2543 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2543. This measure would amend the statute that prescribes the functions of the UH Community Colleges to include rapid response occupational training and certification programs.

It is a core function of the UH Community Colleges to provide short-term, rapid response training to meet the continually changing requirements of the State's economy. Codification into statute provides formal recognition of this function as well as defines the specific expectations of the Legislature on how to fulfill this very important need.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and strongly supports its passage on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget.