

Written Only

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
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Date: 02/28/2017

Time: 09:50 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Judiciary and Labor
Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0619 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

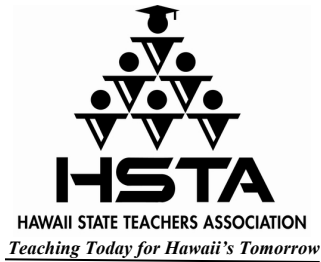
Purpose of Bill: Requests the department of education, in collaboration and consultation with the department of business, economic development, and tourism; the department of labor and industrial relations; and the University of Hawaii, to develop a K-12 curriculum to career pipeline initiative that will ensure the State's public school students are adequately trained and prepared to enter the State's workforce upon graduation from high school.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 619. The Department is committed to the implementation of a new statewide Career Technical Plan focused on creating a standards-based K-12 progression to ensure schools and complexes statewide prepare students for a career pipeline with the appropriate skills, certification, licensing, or college credit to enter the workforce.

The overall goal is to ensure state agencies, business networks, and educational institutions align their organizational and collective strategic efforts behind a unified approach to transforming the state's career pathway systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 619.



LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
WAYS AND MEANS and JUDICIARY AND LABOR

RE: SB 619 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

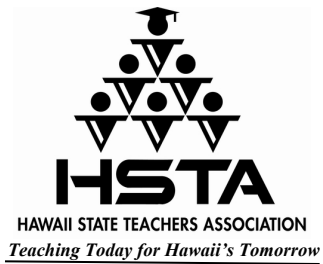
Chair Tokuda, Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 619**, relating to education.

According the Hawaii State Department of Education, “Career and Technical Education is an educational structure that allows students the opportunity to explore and learn through the practical application of academic and technical skills and knowledge. The support and involvement of business and industry in CTE is critical to the preparation of tomorrow's skilled workforce.”

Yet, there is concern among CTE stakeholders (teachers, industry experts, and employers) about the lack of CTE inclusion in federal education legislation. As a result of the federal emphasis on high stakes accountability over the past decade, secondary schools across the state have diverted CTE funding to core content areas, especially English Language Arts and mathematics.

A majority of all current job openings, both locally and nationally, are for positions that do not require a college degree. While education reform rhetoric endlessly extols “college and career readiness,” job projections by the Hawai'i Department of Labor show that, overall, more than 72 percent of the state's projected openings through 2022 require a high school diploma or less. For comparison, about 15 percent of future openings require a bachelor's degree and only 4 percent require a master's, doctoral, or professional degree.



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Hawai'i's CTE offerings must be expanded, then, to allow young people to design their own futures. According to a national study, only 25 percent of polled job seekers reported receiving career pathing in high school, however, with 41 percent saying that they wished they had received more vocational guidance. Careers taught through the state's CTE program—from automotive technology to environmental management to digital media—are at the cutting edge of our local economy, often STEM-related, and require real-world skills that students and employers desire, and that the CCRI paradigm too often fails to advance. One way of increasing participation in CTE programming is to task the DOE with developing a K-12 “curriculum to career pipeline initiative,” which can advance workforce development by ensuring that the growth of highly-skilled employees is a strategic goal of the department.

To prepare students for the 21st Century workforce, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.