



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1223, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Thursday, February 4, 2021      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Lori N. Tanigawa,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-0618)

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Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purposes of the bill are to (1) require the State Board for Career and Technical Education to oversee and review annually statewide data collection processes and reporting requirements related to the student attainment of industry-recognized credentials; (2) require certain agencies to collect and report disaggregated data on students' attainment of industry-recognized credentials; (3) require certain agencies to pursue data-sharing agreements with credentialing entities; and (4) require an annual report to the Governor and Legislature.

The Department is concerned that the collection and reporting of disaggregated data pursuant to this bill may inadvertently violate applicable state and federal laws governing the privacy or confidentiality of personally identifiable information from educational records, wage data, and employment data. The Department therefore recommends that a new subsection (h) be added to Section 2 of the bill as follows:

“All data collection and reporting activity under this section shall be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable federal and state laws governing the privacy and confidentiality of such data.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/04/2021

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1223 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the State board for career and technical education to oversee and review annually statewide data collection processes and reporting requirements related to the student attainment of industry-recognized credentials. Requires certain agencies to collect and report disaggregated data on students' attainment of industry-recognized credentials. Requires certain agencies to pursue data-sharing agreements with credentialing entities. Requires an annual report to the governor and legislature.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1223, however, notes that resources will be needed to modify existing data collection systems to collect the information being requested in the bill.

The attainment of industry-recognized credentials by students in high school as part of a quality Career and Technical Education program is a goal of the Department.

In order to meet the reporting requirements requested in this measure, the Department will need to explore our current data collection options and modify them to generate the requested reports. Due to the scope of this effort, the Department anticipates that additional time and resources will be needed.

As public high schools establish or expand their Career and Technical Education programs of study in their school design, the Department is committed to strengthening and advancing a concerted effort among various partners to prepare students for the college and career pipeline with the appropriate skills, attributes, certification, and/or college credit to contribute to the vitality of Hawaii's workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1223.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 4, 2021 at 2:00pm  
by  
Stephen Schatz  
Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Partnership for Education

**HBI223 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports House Bill 1223. As more students achieve credentials at all levels of the education pipeline, there is a growing awareness that industry-recognized credentials provide opportunities for students to advance their education and career aspirations. Together with Kamehameha Schools, the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, and the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Hawai'i P-20 recently embarked on the *Promising Credentials* project to assess which credentials have value in Hawai'i's labor market. Key to the success of this project is having data that lets us know which credentials provide value in the labor market, based on wages and demand. While we have made progress on determining which credentials are promising, we still need to know more about the production of credentials, who are earning them, and which entities are providing programs accessible by students. With this data, we can collectively invest in programs that are successful in helping our students achieve their career goals.

As the managing partner of the Hawai'i Data eXchange Partnership (DXP) – a collaboration of five state agencies committed to cross-agency data sharing in order to improve education and workforce outcomes in the state – Hawai'i P-20 has experience in successfully implementing data sharing among state agencies. Through data sharing agreements, DXP partners contribute to the Statewide Longitudinal Data System and have collectively established a strong and active data governance program to protect individual privacy and confidentiality. The DXP values data privacy and security and ensures that all data sharing agreements comply with applicable state and federal statutes for the agencies involved.

Hawai'i P-20 understands the critical importance of data, as it allows the state to develop better policies and practices by identifying the achievements and challenges students face as they transition through Hawai'i's education and workforce pipeline. We believe that education and training will help our citizens to fully achieve their goals, support themselves and their families, and thrive in our state. Hawai'i P-20 stands ready to bring our expertise with data sharing and data use to assist with the implementation of HBI223.

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

**Hawai'i P-20**

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# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Bernadette Howard  
Hawai'i State Director for Career and Technical Education  
University of Hawai'i

### HB 1223 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1223 with comments and recommended revisions.

This bill would require the State Board for CTE to oversee and annually review statewide data collection processes and reporting requirements related to the student attainment of industry-recognized credentials, and annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on its findings.

It is in alignment with the US DOL's *Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act*, (WIOA), the US DOE's *Every Student Succeeds Act*, (ESSA) and the *Strengthening CTE for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*, (Perkins V) State Plans.

Regarding an annual report to the state board for CTE:

The UH Board of Regents has served as the State Board for CTE since 1967 when Hawai'i Revised Statute 304A-302 was passed. That same statute requires "...an annual report to the Governor describing the conditions and progress of CTE...". The Board regularly submits the required report. An additional set of data points around credentials conforms to efforts currently underway across the state, and those data can be provided by the CTE office to the State Board for inclusion in the Governor's report once the processes and protocols have been completed and implemented.

Regarding collecting data around credentials:

WIOA, ESSA, and Perkins V State Plans are aligned around a statewide Career Pathways System. One of the elements of a high-quality career pathway is that it culminates in a degree, certificate, or credential recognized and validated by the employers in the state. Significant progress has been made over the last year through cross agency and employer work groups to determine which credentials Hawaii's employers value and endorse. There is significant work still to be done to create the protocols and processes to do this with integrity – and to then implement the plan.

Recommendations:

1. Data security is of the highest importance and some of the language in this bill needs to be strengthened.
2. The work of organizing and implementing data collection and reporting across all agencies statewide, is unlikely to be completed by the bill's proposed effective date of July 1, 2022. I would respectfully recommend that the effective date be delayed until July 1, 2023.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HB 1223, RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB 1223**, which ensures Hawaii collects student attainment data for individual industry-recognized credentials.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

To accelerate Hawaii's economic recovery, industry leaders must collaborate to support innovative solutions to grow and strengthen their industry. Identifying the right credentials to offer students matter now more than ever and we have an obligation to prepare students for jobs that are forecasted to increase in demand, pay a family sustaining wage, and have a promising career ladder.

In order to guide the right tools in identifying industry credentials and tailoring them to the current employment environment, the aggregation, collection and analysis of data is necessary to properly tailor and successfully align with the mission and vision of the Promising Credentials project.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1223.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

February 4, 2021

Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

**HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports HB1223**, which requires the Hawaii board for career and technical education to oversee and review annually statewide data collection processes and reporting requirements related to the student attainment of industry-recognized credentials; requires certain agencies to collect and report disaggregated data on students' attainment of industry-recognized credentials; requires certain agencies to pursue data-sharing agreements with credentialing entities; and requires an annual report to the governor and legislature.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances. Our work has included a focus on increasing access to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and computer science learning experiences. These opportunities expose students to skills connected with high-wage, high-growth industries, giving them more options upon graduation.

Today, our students face an uncertain, deeply complex economic future, both globally and locally. More than ever, students need to leave our K-12 system with the career readiness skills they need to survive and thrive and hopefully contribute to our state. Hawaii schools understand this reality, which is why there has been a growth in career academies and pathways programs in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic has further



shown the need to diversify Hawaii's economy and ensure students are equipped with skills to thrive in high-wage, high-growth industries here in the state.

National research has shown that the question should be not whether schools offer career pathway programs, but what types of programs are offered. For example, research shows that workers with certificates in engineering technologies have median earnings between \$75,001 and \$150,000, easily outpacing those with certificates in cosmetology, who earn between \$10,001 and \$20,000, and culinary arts, at \$20,001 and \$30,000. As such, schools and policymakers need quality economic data to more strategically drive career readiness experiences for students.

It is estimated that more than 80% of good jobs today require a post-secondary credential, including industry-recognized credentials. Yet, national data shows only 18% of credentials earned by K-12 students in the US hold real value to employers.

HB1223 helps to streamline and centralize the data gathering and reporting process for the industry-recognized credentials obtained by students. With clear and transparent data, HB1223 will help to ensure students are ready to work in Hawaii, and that their career readiness programs are truly preparing them to succeed.

Schools, policymakers, and students will be able to see which programs lead to high-wage, high-growth job opportunities.

This data will also help schools make sure all students have a fair chance to pursue their dreams.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN

**HB-1223**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 6:37:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aisha Heredia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**February 4, 2021**

**Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair**

**State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,**

**I am a community member Waimanalo who cares deeply about public education. I'm in strong support HB1223.**

**It is estimated that more than 80% of good jobs today require a post-secondary credential, including industry-recognized credentials. Yet, national data shows only 18% of credentials earned by K-12 students in the US hold real value to employers. HB1223 helps to streamline and centralize the data gathering and reporting process for the industry-recognized credentials obtained by students.**

**With clear and transparent data, HB1223 will help to ensure students are ready to work in Hawaii, and that their career readiness programs are truly preparing them to succeed.**

**Mahalo,  
Aisha Heredia**

**HB-1223**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:28:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

support