



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
DIRECTOR  
**MARK K. ANDERSON**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [www.hawaii.gov/dbedt](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING**  
and  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Monday, March 30, 2009

1:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**SCR 146**

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION TO  
CONVENE THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO EXAMINE CURRENT AND  
EMERGING PROGRAMS SEEKING TO TRACK STUDENT PROGRESS AND  
DEVELOP A LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING IN  
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS TO GRADE TWELVE, AND BEYOND TO  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE**

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committees on Education and Housing, and Higher Education.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SCR 146, which requests the Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education to convene key agencies to help coordinate efforts and develop a data sharing agreement in support of the longitudinal tracking of Hawaii's students from the lower education system through the higher education system and into the workforce.

The National Governors Association and other Federal agencies have advocated that states adopt policies that bring about better cooperation between workforce development, economic development and educational agencies. In particular, it has been recognized that better data and the ability to track the progress of students through the educational pipeline are critical to ensuring the effectiveness educational reform and the development of a skilled workforce in a century of increasing global competition. This level of cooperation must continue to be an important goal for Hawaii.

Currently, P-20, the University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and DBEDT are working together to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate data sharing in support of tracking and performance measurement. This group of agencies will be submitting grant proposals for Federal stimulus funds which will

be made available for states that make progress in several areas, one of which is to improve longitudinal data systems. Other funds will also be sought to pursue this effort.

We believe that SCR 146 provides additional and welcomed support for that important effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing and the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Conference Room 225  
1:45 p.m.**

**RE:** SCR 146: REQUESTING THE HAWAI‘I P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION TO CONVENE THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO EXAMINE CURRENT AND EMERGING PROGRAMS SEEKING TO TRACK STUDENT PROGRESS AND DEVELOP A LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS TO GRADE TWELVE, AND BEYOND TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

**Chairs Sakamoto and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:**

I am Kathryn Matayoshi, Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable, testifying in support of SCR 146.

The Roundtable has a long history of supporting reform and positive change in public education. I have been assisting the Department of Education as it analyzes the requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”, aka Federal Stimulus). The ARRA also focuses states’ efforts to use longitudinal data about student progress and outcomes for data-based decision making, by requiring it as one of the “assurances” needed to obtain federal stimulus funding for public education.

Clearly, the need to access federal funds available to Hawaii is a critically important factor in moving forward expeditiously with a longitudinal data system. But as recognized by ARRA and the Hawaii public education leaders, a longitudinal data system that can inform decision making and evaluation of the impact of policies, interventions and resource use is an excellent long term and fundamentally important system that can drive systemic change in public education.

I have participated in the discussions led by Hawai‘i P-20, a statewide partnership of the Good Beginnings Alliance, Hawai‘i Department of Education (DOE) and the University of Hawai‘i (UH) with the University, the DOE and early educators, to improve educational outcomes for Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i P-20 is uniquely positioned to bring together the institutions necessary to build a robust and profoundly useful data system.

In summary, we support the passage of SCR 146. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.