

Leeward CC Faculty Senate

Legislative Relations Committee Report -AY 2019-2020

Summary of Reports

Whitmore Project

In February, the office of Senator Donovan Dela Cruz reached out to the Committee wishing to share its plans for the Whitmore Project with the Faculty Senate. It is part of the State's Master Plan to rejuvenate the Central Oahu area's economic engine, while maintaining its agricultural setting and zoning, includes the cooperation of DOE and the UHCCs (Leeward CC and Windward CC) to assist with Workforce readiness. It responds to decades-long talk of diversifying Hawai'i's economy. Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee leads this project. Due to a hearing, the Senator was not able to discuss this project in person with the Faculty Senate as was planned. See [Whitmore Project](#) link for more information.

On February 15, 2020, a delegation from Leeward CC, which included Chancellor Carlos Penalosa, other administrators, and I, attended a Whitmore Project presentation on site. We were able to ask Senator Dela Cruz and his staff questions about Leeward's involvement and the sustainability projections of the project. If Leeward CC signs on to this initiative, I suspect there will be many more meetings between Leeward CC and the leaders of the Whitmore Project.

UHCC's (Leeward CC) Role

Develop Curriculum to:

- Assist with product development
- Offer one-on-one consulting to farmers and food companies
- Assist with identifying, testing, and selecting appropriate packaging
- Offer shelf life testing
- Provide classes and training

The Whitmore Project proposes to provide Leeward CC classrooms on site at the proposed University of Hawai'i CC's VALUE-ADDED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CENTER in Wahiawa.

Whitmore Project Site Visit and Tour Invitation

1116 Whitmore Ave Wahiawa 96786

Saturday Feb. 15. 9-11:30 am.

Contact David Cho, 808-597-6828

Legislation in the Pipeline for Spring 2020 Session

Due the Covid 19 pandemic and the Governor's stay-at-home order, the Legislature was unable to maintain its calendar. The bills listed below were determined by the Committee to be of relevance to the welfare of the community at Leeward CC; the status of these bills remains uncertain.

Senate: Higher Ed Chair, Donna Mercado Kim, VChair, Michelle Kidani
House: Lower & Higher Ed Chair, Justin Woodson, VChair Mike Hashem, Sean Quinlan

No.	Description	Notes
HB 2305 LAB, FIN	RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS. Provides appropriations for collective bargaining cost items for the members of Unit (7) and their excluded counterparts, including the cost of salary adjustments negotiated between the State and the bargaining unit representative, for fiscal biennium 2019-2021.	Unit (7) is UHPA
SB 2945 EDU, WAM	RELATING TO TEACHERS. Requires the Board of Education to offer no less than three credits of professional development courses, classes, or other programs annually to each teacher at no cost to the teacher.	Ed Program
SB 2065 EDU, WAM	RELATING TO SCHOOLS. Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers.	Competition for Leeward CC CTE program?
SB 2056	RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. Requires the University of Hawaii to collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop and implement an interactive web tool that will enable degree-seeking individuals to make better-informed decisions regarding their post-secondary education and career choices. Appropriates funds	Counseling
HB 1998 LAB, FIN	RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. Authorizes forfeiture of certain ERS benefits, pursuant to court order, for state or county employees and designated beneficiaries who are convicted of an employment-related felony.	One of many iterations; a response to the Kealoha trials.
SB 3032 HRE, WAM	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM. Converts the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program from a scholarship to a loan program. Makes these loans forgivable if the recipient works in Hawaii for five years after graduation from college. Authorizes the Board of Regents to establish rules regarding the program.	Counseling Manoa is again requesting Promise Program.
SB 2573 HRE, WAM	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS. Requires all public meetings of the Board of Regents to be recorded in digital video format, webcast live, and archived and made available to the public.	General
SB 2296	RELATING TO EDUCATION. Establishes a working group to create a state plan to make FAFSA completion a statewide graduation requirement and an opt-out waiver for FAFSA completion by the 2022-2023 school years.	Counseling

	Appropriates funds. EDU/HRE, WAM	
SB 3018 HWN/WT L, JDC	RELATING TO TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN PRACTICES. Exempts the traditional and customary practice of kalo farming on kuleana lands by native Hawaiians from the requisite permit for withdrawal, diversion, impoundment, or consumptive use of water. Exempts the traditional and customary practice of kalo farming on kuleana lands by native Hawaiians from the requisite permit for construction or alteration of a stream diversion works.	General
SB 3019 HWN/WT L, JDC	RELATING TO TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN PRACTICES. Allows traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming on lands designated as conservation districts.	General
SB 3020 HWN/WT L, JDC	RELATING TO TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN PRACTICES. Protects native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.	General
HB 2541	RELATING TO HELPING WORKING FAMILIES. MINIMUM WAGE Makes the state earned income tax credit refundable and permanent. Increases and amends the refundable food/excise tax credit by basing the amount of the credit on a taxpayer's Hawaii earned income, rather than federal adjusted gross income. Increases minimum wage rate to \$11.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2021, \$12.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2022, \$12.50 per hour beginning on 1/1/2023, and \$13.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2024.	General
SB 2691 HRE, WAM	RELATING TO TEACHER EDUCATION. Establishes a network improvement community task force to develop a K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teacher education degree for the University of Hawaii. Appropriates funds.	Ed Program
SB 2823 HRE, JDC	RELATING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM. Prohibits the President of the University of Hawaii from serving concurrently as a campus chancellor.	General
SB 2311 HRE, JDC	RELATING TO CAMPUS SAFETY. Strengthens campus safety and accountability procedures and protocols, including those relating to sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and related issues, at the University of Hawaii. Takes steps to extend those procedures and protocols to private institutions of higher education in Hawaii.	Campus Safety
HB 2054 LAB, JUD, FIN	RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES. Prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to enter into a non-disclosure agreement pertaining to sexual harassment or sexual assault. Prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee for disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or sexual assault.	Human resources
SB 2063, SD1,	RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, Would establish after-school programs for all middle school children. The purpose of this bill is to support our young families by ensuring that our middle-school-aged youth have safe and structured after school programs and activities.	Example of high cost of poor wages Cleared for 3 rd reading
SB2052,	RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS	Ed Program

SD1,	For early childhood education professionals, would allow education loans of early childhood education students to be forgiven after 5 years of teaching in early childhood education. The purpose of this bill is to strengthen early childhood education in Hawaii by encouraging more people to become qualified early childhood education professionals.	Cleared for 3 rd reading
SB 2077, SD1,	RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, Would establish a tree planting program in the State of Hawaii to plant at least one million native trees in the State per year. The Hawaii tree planting program shall expand the appropriate urban, peri-urban, and rural tree canopies throughout the State. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that we have adequate native trees to support our environmental needs.	Sustainability Certificate Cleared for 3 rd reading
SB 2390 HRE/HW N WAM	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. University of Hawaii; Tuition Waivers; Scholarships; Hawaiian Language; Fluency (\$) Establishes the Hawaiian language fluency special fund to provide scholarships and tuition waivers for students who are fluent in the Hawaiian language and attend or intend to attend the University of Hawaii college of education; Appropriates funds to the Hawaiian language fluency special fund.	General Reflects the needs of HWN Language teachers in DOE.
SB 2608	RELATING TO STUDENT JOURNALISTS. Student Journalism Protection Act; Student Journalists; Freedom of Speech; Freedom of the Press Allows student journalists at public schools and public post-secondary educational institutions to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media.	Students
SB 2767	RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION. Report Title: University of Hawaii; Service Members; Veterans; Priority Course Registration; Academic Credits Description: Provides military service members and veterans priority course registration at the University of Hawaii. Requires the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to adopt a policy to award a minimum amount of academic credit to enrolled veterans.	Veterans Program
SB 3157	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES. Report Title: University of Hawaii; Community Colleges; Performance Audit; Appropriation (\$) Description: Requires the Auditor to conduct a comprehensive performance audit of the University of Hawaii Community College system and report its findings to the 2021 legislature. Appropriates funds.	General Can be costly to prepare Introduced by Chair Kim
SB 3147	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. Report Title: UH; Mental Health Services; Appropriation (\$) Description: Appropriates funds to increase access to mental health services across the University of Hawaii system.	Counseling

Submitted on May 20, 2020 by:
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