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To testimony_boe@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject V.A. Community Stakeholder
Presentation: Hawaii Business
Roundtable presentation on strategic
priorities

Dear Honorable Chair Mizumoto and Members of the Board,

My name is Matthew Calica, and I am an automotive technology teacher from James Campbell High. I have several concerns regarding the sustainability of CTE programs in Hawaii. See notes below:

1. Attracting qualified teachers: I have been teaching automotive technology for six years now. Within that time, I have seen FIVE building and construction teachers come and go. As of right now, the trend is that when a CTE teacher retires/leaves, the school scrambles to find a replacement. If a replacement is not found within a year, that program is closed forever. CTE positions are hard to fill, mainly because people from "industry" make more money, doing less work. The average pay for a diesel mechanic at Hawthorne Caterpillar in Waipahu is \$43 an hour; more pay is earned if that mechanic is taken by a private contractor. Carpenters can make comparable pay once they finish their apprenticeship. Engineers earn \$100k a year salary. In comparison, I net \$3200 a month as a class 5 teacher. I've gone through several years of school, and written tens-of-thousands of words in portfolios nobody cares about, to make that \$3200 a month...How many industry people are willing to do the same?

We need to make it easier for industry workers to use their experience as "reclass" credits. I can only speak for myself, but my masters degree in education did NOTHING to prepare me for the world of teaching; pedagogy goes out the window when standing in front of a classroom of 30, 16-17 year old male students. The only thing that really prepares one for teaching is to step into a classroom and...teach. I believe we should develop a CTE-certification program that is streamlined, and emphasizes student-teaching. Furthermore, people from industry should be able to get the same certifications as SATEP teachers after completing this program. Right now there is a CTE certification program at LCC, but graduates from that program are "stuck" at the lowest teacher classification, taking home a net of \$1600 a month. Ridiculous. The only way they can reclass is if they get a bachelors in education. And yet there are dedicated teachers who do this...for \$1600 a month!

Perkins funding is a hassle, and is only given for program improvement. This past year, Perkins money did not reach the school level until late October. This meant that my Part-time teacher couldn't start, and my instruction had to be modified. On top of that, we are not allowed to use this money on supplies, only larger "program improvement" purchases. In my automotive program, we use a lot of supplies: oil, brake fluid, coolant, automatic transmission fluid, gear oil, etc. I need to use 15849 for this, which means my budget is much less. CTE classes need money to function safely and effectively, but I don't think the schools realize this.

This is just some of my \$.02. I want to write a lot more, but I feel like a lot of this needs to be said in person. I wish I could attend the meeting, but I have my 7 month old son at home. If it weren't for my mother being able to watch him while my wife and I work, one of us would have to quit our job; daycare costs more than I make in a paycheck, which makes me think that I should go into that business instead.

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