

H.B. NO. 2348

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that when state
2 government is faced with a labor shortage or with occupational
3 areas that are difficult to fill, the State needs to be creative
4 and flexible in finding ways to attract and retain skilled
5 employees.

6 The legislature further acknowledges that the department of
7 education faces particular challenges filling vacant teacher
8 positions in smaller schools, rural schools, and schools in hard
9 to reach locations, as well as math and science teaching
10 positions.

11 It is the legislature's intent that this Act will strike a
12 balance between the department of education's requirement to
13 have an adequate number of trained teachers teaching in each
14 classroom, and the candidate's desire to teach in the Hawaii
15 public school and charter school system. This Act will
16 establish an emergency certified teacher program and allow the
17 superintendent of education to hire emergency certified

H.B. NO. 2348

1 teachers. Under the program, a person with an accredited
2 college bachelor's or higher degree would be qualified to teach
3 in the subject in which they are degreed, if the person
4 completes the same or similar training course provided to
5 substitute teachers in the department of education. This Act
6 will also expand the areas of representation on the Hawaii
7 teachers standards board by providing that at least one of the
8 members shall come from a non-teaching background.

9 SECTION 2. Section 302A-801, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

11 "(a) There is established the Hawaii teacher standards
12 board, which shall be placed within the department for
13 administrative purposes only. The board shall consist of
14 thirteen members, including not less than ~~[six]~~ five licensed
15 teachers regularly engaged in teaching, three educational
16 officers, the chairperson of the board of education or the
17 chairperson's designee, the superintendent or the
18 superintendent's designee, a representative of independent
19 schools, a representative from a non-teaching background such as
20 the parent teacher student association, Hawaii Business
21 Roundtable, or chamber of commerce, and the dean of the
22 University of Hawaii college of education or the dean's

H.B. NO. 2348

1 designee; provided that the dean's designee shall be chosen from
2 the member institutions of the teacher education coordinating
3 committee established under section 304-20."

4 SECTION 3. Section 302A-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

6 "(c) The board shall adopt policies, exempt from chapters
7 91 and 92, to initiate the following:

- 8 (1) Develop a plan for licensing more individuals with
9 practical experience for teaching in
10 vocational/technical programs;
- 11 (2) Develop a plan to accept teachers from any state as
12 long as they have completed state-approved teacher
13 education programs and pass relevant Hawaii teacher
14 examinations or their equivalent;
- 15 (3) Establish a process for expedited teacher
16 certification for person's with an accredited college
17 bachelor's or higher degree to teach in the subject in
18 which they are degreed, provided that they complete
19 the same or similar training course provided to
20 substitute teachers in the department of education.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Governor

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD.

PURPOSE: To allow the superintendent of education to hire emergency certified teachers, and to expand the areas of representation on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board without increasing the number of members.

MEANS: Amend Sections 302A-801(a) and 302A-802(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The public school system has a shortage of qualified teachers. Simultaneously, the specific credentials required by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board often exclude qualified and experienced teachers and take away the superintendent's flexibility to hire quality teachers.

This bill would amend section 302A-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish an Emergency Certified Teacher Program. This program will establish a process for expedited teacher certification. Under the program, persons with an accredited college bachelor's or higher degree would be qualified to teach in the subject in which they are degreed, provided that they complete the same or similar training course provided to substitute teachers in the Department of Education.

The proposed measure would also amend section 302A-801, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide that at least one of the thirteen members of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board should come from a non-teaching background (i.e. Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), Hawaii Business Roundtable, etc.).

Impact on the public: This increased flexibility in qualifications will encourage more applications to teach in Hawaii's public schools.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Department of Education would have another source of skilled teachers.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: None.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006.