

JAN 25 2006

S.B. NO. 2420

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 302A-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§302A-802 Licensing standards; Hawaiian programs;**
4 **policies.** (a) The board shall establish licensing standards
5 that govern teacher licensing in Hawaii. Licensing standards
6 established by the board shall be adopted as rules under chapter
7 91 unless otherwise specified in this subpart.

8 (b) In the development of its standards, the board shall
9 consider the existing teacher applicant pool that is available
10 in the State and the level of the qualification of these
11 applicants, as well as the nature and availability of existing
12 preservice higher education teacher training programs.

13 (c) The board shall establish alternative licensing
14 standards that focus on adequate post-secondary education, or
15 professional experience, in the Hawaiian language. The board
16 shall not make passing any national examination that tests
17 knowledge of the Hawaiian language or Hawaiian culture related
18 areas a condition of being licensed to teach in the medium of



1 the Hawaiian language, or licensed to teach in a Hawaiian
2 language immersion program, or licensed to teach Hawaiian
3 studies or other areas related to Hawaiian culture, or licensed
4 to teach in a Hawaiian-focused charter school, or licensed to
5 teach on the island of Niihau.

6 For the purposes of this section, "Hawaiian-focused charter
7 school" means a school that uses instructional methods and
8 materials based on Hawaiian values, including the use of
9 Hawaiian culture-focused curriculum and pedagogy, and either
10 teaches classes exclusively in the Hawaiian language or offers
11 substantial Hawaiian language immersion programs and curricular
12 strands.

13 ~~(e)~~ (d) The board shall adopt policies, exempt from
14 chapters 91 and 92, to initiate the following:

- 15 (1) Develop a plan for licensing more individuals with
16 practical experience for teaching in
17 vocational/technical programs;
- 18 (2) Develop a plan to accept teachers from any state as
19 long as they have completed state-approved teacher
20 education programs and pass relevant Hawaii teacher
21 examinations or their equivalent;

1 (3) Clarify the requirements, on a state-by-state basis,
2 for out-of-state licensed teachers to obtain a license
3 in Hawaii;

4 (4) Develop a plan to facilitate licensing for those who
5 intend to teach in Hawaii immersion programs, on the
6 island of Niihau, or in any other [†]extraordinary[†]
7 situation as defined by the [†]superintendent[†] or
8 the superintendent's designee; and

9 (5) Pursue full teacher license reciprocity with the mid-
10 Atlantic states, California, Colorado, Illinois,
11 Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Washington."

12 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15

INTRODUCED BY: 

By Request

SB 2420

Report Title:

Teacher Licensing; Hawaiian Language; Teacher Standards

Description:

Requires the Hawaii teacher standards board to establish alternative licensing standards for teaching in the Hawaiian language. Prohibits the board from requiring a passing score on a national examination in Hawaiian language or culture as a condition of being licensed to teach in certain Hawaiian educational programs.

