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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that teacher licensing  
2 requirements in Hawaii differ from teacher licensing  
3 requirements under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001  
4 (Public Law 107-110), which requires all schools to have  
5 teachers who are considered "highly qualified" in core academic  
6 subjects, such as English, reading or language arts,  
7 mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government,  
8 economics, arts, history, and geography. The differing  
9 requirements have resulted in confusion among teachers and  
10 administrators. It also potentially jeopardizes federal Title  
11 IIA funding, which stipulates that all teachers in each state  
12 who teach core academic subjects meet federal requirements.

13           The purpose of this Act to clarify that Hawaii's teacher  
14 licensure requirements need to be aligned with federal licensure  
15 requirements and to improve the delivery of services to  
16 students.

17           SECTION 2. The Hawaii teacher standards board shall make  
18 the appropriate administrative rule changes to align state



1 licensure requirements with federal licensure requirements. The  
2 changes shall:

3 (1) Require that teachers who apply to add subject matter  
4 fields to their existing teacher licenses submit that  
5 they have:

6 (A) Passed the PRAXIS II subject matter assessments  
7 in each core academic subject for which licensure  
8 in an additional field is sought; or

9 (B) Completed a major (or the equivalent of a major,  
10 which consists of thirty semester hours) in each  
11 core academic subject for which licensure in an  
12 additional field is sought;

13 (2) Eliminate the option to add a field to an existing  
14 license by submitting evidence of two years of  
15 teaching experience and eighteen credit hours of  
16 coursework, with twelve of the credits earned in upper  
17 division or graduate level courses; and

18 (3) Develop guidelines to streamline the proposal and  
19 approval of alternative routes to licensure programs  
20 that meet the federal requirements.

21 SECTION 3. The department of education and the Hawaii  
22 teacher standards board shall share data and collaborate on the



1 progress of aligning state and federal teacher licensure  
2 requirements.

3 SECTION 4. Section 302A-804, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "**§302A-804 Powers and duties of the department.** The  
6 department shall retain all of its rights and powers except for  
7 the authority provided to the board under this subpart. The  
8 department's powers and duties under this subpart shall be  
9 limited to:

10 (1) Hiring, except in emergency situations as described in  
11 this chapter, licensed teachers to teach in their  
12 fields of licensing;

13 (2) Reporting data annually to the board about the supply  
14 of, and demand for, teachers, including the  
15 identification of shortage areas, out-of-field  
16 teaching assignments, numbers of teachers teaching  
17 out-of-field, numbers and types of courses and classes  
18 taught by out-of-field teachers, and numbers and types  
19 of students taught by out-of-field teachers;

20 (3) On an emergency and case-by-case basis, hiring  
21 unlicensed individuals; provided that:



- 1 (A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching  
2 assignments, and progress toward licensing of  
3 these individuals shall be reported to the board  
4 and any changes shall be updated on a monthly  
5 basis by the department;
- 6 (B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the  
7 specific assignments for which the individuals  
8 are being hired; and
- 9 (C) No individual may be employed by the department  
10 on an emergency basis for more than [~~four~~] three  
11 years. During this time the individual must  
12 demonstrate active pursuit of licensing in each  
13 year of employment;
- 14 (4) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:
- 15 (A) The number of emergency hires by subject matter  
16 areas and by schools;
- 17 (B) The reasons and duration of employment for the  
18 emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A);
- 19 (C) Individual progress toward licensing; and
- 20 (D) The department's efforts to address the shortages  
21 described in subparagraph (A); and



1 (5) Providing any other information requested by the board  
2 that is pertinent to its powers and duties."

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 16 2008



**Report Title:**

Education; Teacher Licensing; Teacher Standards

**Description:**

Directs the department of education and the Hawaii teacher standards board to adopt new administrative rules to align state and federal teacher licensing requirements. Reduces the number of years an individual may be employed as a teacher on an emergency basis from 4 to 3..

