
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE
FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD.

1 WHEREAS, in 2001, the Twenty-first Legislature transferred
2 the responsibility for licensing teachers from the Department of
3 Education to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board consists of
6 thirteen members, including not less than six licensed teachers
7 regularly engaged in teaching, three educational officers, the
8 Chairperson of the Board of Education or the chairperson's
9 designee, the Superintendent of Education or the
10 superintendent's designee, a representative of independent
11 schools, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
12 Education or the dean's designee; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board establishes
15 standards for the issuance and renewal of licenses; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board serves as the
18 final adjudicator for appeals relating to licensing, including
19 issuance or nonissuance of licenses, and the suspension,
20 nonrenewal, and revocation of licenses; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board approves
23 teacher education programs and the professional development of
24 teachers; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board established
27 within the state treasury a special fund into which all moneys
28 received by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board are deposited,
29 including fees, fines, grants, and other revenues and which is
30 administered by the Department of Education to fund all
31 operational and personnel costs and reimburse board members for
32 travel expenses incurred; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board serves as the
2 final adjudicator for appeals relating to licensing, including
3 issuance or nonissuance of licenses, and the suspension,
4 nonrenewal, and revocation of licenses; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is
7 administratively attached to the Department of Education but has
8 no oversight by or is not accountable to the Department of
9 Education, acts autonomously, and at most prepares an annual
10 report to the Legislature and the Governor regarding its
11 operations but is otherwise only required to submit a report
12 every five years to the Legislature and the Governor regarding
13 its accomplishments to fulfill its statutory mission and efforts
14 to achieve responsiveness and efficiency; and
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16 WHEREAS, there are numerous professional and vocational
17 licensing boards, administratively attached to the Department of
18 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, that similarly establish
19 licensing standards, implement licensing, enforce discipline,
20 and perform other regulatory functions as the Hawaii Teacher
21 Standards Board; and
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23 WHEREAS, the licensing boards attached to the Department of
24 Commerce and Consumer Affairs do not act autonomously but rather
25 receive direct oversight by and are accountable to the
26 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, including the
27 monitoring of those boards' operations, goals, and
28 accomplishments for efficiency and effectiveness; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
31 serves as a model to ensure accountability, efficiency, and
32 effectiveness of boards and commissions administratively
33 attached to an agency; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
37 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Teacher
38 Standards Board is requested to commission an independent study
39 that will utilize the model of the Department of Commerce and
40 Consumer Affairs for administratively attached boards and
41 determine the statutory amendments needed for this model to be
42 in place between the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and the
43 Department of Education, or if instead the Hawaii Teacher

1 Standards Board should be transferred to the Department of
2 Commerce and Consumer Affairs to conform with this model; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Teacher Standards
5 Board shall submit a report on the study, including its findings
6 and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
7 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
11 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the
12 Chairperson and Executive Director of the Hawaii Teacher
13 Standards Board, the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
14 the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and the Hawaii Government
15 Employees Association.

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