

JAN 17 2008

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 those of the federal No Child
3 Left Behind Act, which requires all schools to have "highly
4 qualified" teachers in core academic subjects (defined as
5 English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign
6 languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and
7 geography). The legislature further finds that the state-
8 federal licensure conflict can lead to confusion among teachers
9 and administrators.

10 The purpose of this Act is to align the state's teacher
11 licensure requirements with federal licensure requirements and
12 improve the delivery of services to students.

13 SECTION 2. The Hawaii teacher standards board shall make
14 the appropriate administrative rule changes to align state
15 teacher licensure requirements with federal requirements. The
16 changes shall include:



- 1 (1) Requiring that teachers who apply to add additional
2 fields to existing teacher licenses submit that they
3 have either:
- 4 (A) Passed the PRAXIS II subject matter assessments
5 in each core academic subject for which licensure
6 in an additional field is sought; or
- 7 (B) Completed a major (or the equivalent of a major
8 which is thirty semester hours) in each core
9 academic subject for which licensure in an
10 additional field is sought;
- 11 (2) Eliminating the option to add a field to an existing
12 license by submitting evidence of two years of
13 teaching experience and eighteen credit hours of
14 coursework (twelve in upper division or graduate
15 levels); and
- 16 (3) Developing guidelines to streamline the proposal and
17 approval of alternative routes to licensure programs
18 that meet the federal requirements.

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

21 "**§302A-804 Powers and duties of the department.** The
22 department shall retain all of its rights and powers except for



1 the authority provided to the board under this subpart. The
2 department's powers and duties under this subpart shall be
3 limited to:

4 (1) Hiring, except in emergency situations as described in
5 this chapter, licensed teachers to teach in their
6 fields of licensing;

7 (2) Reporting data annually to the board about the supply
8 of, and demand for, teachers, including the
9 identification of shortage areas, out-of-field
10 teaching assignments, numbers of teachers teaching
11 out-of-field, numbers and types of courses and classes
12 taught by out-of-field teachers, and numbers and types
13 of students taught by out-of-field teachers;

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

16 (A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching
17 assignments, and progress toward licensing of
18 these individuals shall be reported to the board
19 and any changes shall be updated on a monthly
20 basis by the department;



1 (B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the
2 specific assignments for which the individuals
3 are being hired; and

4 (C) No individual may be employed by the department
5 on an emergency basis for more than [~~four~~] three
6 years. During this time the individual must
7 demonstrate active pursuit of licensing in each
8 year of employment;

9 (4) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:

10 (A) The number of emergency hires by subject matter
11 areas and by schools;

12 (B) The reasons and duration of employment for the
13 emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A);

14 (C) Individual progress toward licensing; and

15 (D) The department's efforts to address the shortages
16 described in subparagraph (A); and

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

19 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2163

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Norman Safoni



Report Title:

HTSB; DOE; Teacher Licensure Requirements; Emergency Hire
Employment Duration

Description:

Requires the Hawaii teacher standards board to adopt rules to align state teacher licensing requirements with federal standards. Limits the duration of employment of an emergency unlicensed hire of the department of education to three years.

