
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 education, the schools, and its students are best served by the
3 existence of a teacher workforce that consists of effective,
4 knowledgeable, and qualified teachers. Yet, the current
5 licensure process for teachers in Hawaii contains barriers to
6 allowing otherwise effective, knowledgeable, and qualified
7 teachers from becoming licensed in the State, particularly in
8 the cases of teachers from outside of the State. Licensed
9 teachers from other states often move to Hawaii with the intent
10 of continuing to pursue their teaching careers. These
11 individuals are often highly-qualified teachers who have been
12 licensed and certified by other jurisdictions with reputable
13 teaching standards and school systems.

14 The legislature further finds that there is a critical
15 teacher shortage in Hawaii and that during difficult times such
16 as these the State must explore alternatives to the current
17 methods for recruiting and retaining qualified teachers to teach



1 in our public schools. However, it is also important not to
2 compromise the standards by which the State determines that a
3 teacher is appropriately qualified to teach within the State.
4 While the legislature continues to support high standards for
5 teachers, those standards can be met through alternative
6 licensing qualifications that are not prohibitive to qualified
7 individuals seeking to teach in Hawaii.

8 Currently, the Hawaii teacher standards board is tasked
9 with pursuing full teacher license reciprocity with the Mid-
10 Atlantic States, as well as California, Colorado, Illinois,
11 Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Washington. The automatic
12 licensure of teachers from outside of the State will be of great
13 benefit to our schools and our students by generating an
14 abundance of highly qualified teachers from which principals may
15 select to teach in their schools.

16 The purpose of this Act is to increase the teacher
17 workforce by allowing qualified teachers from certain
18 jurisdictions outside of the State to become licensed to teach
19 in Hawaii. Additionally, this Act requires the Hawaii teacher
20 standards board to continue to pursue full teacher licensing
21 reciprocity with not only a limited number of states, but
22 instead with all states across the country.



1 SECTION 2. Section 302A-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3 "(c) The board shall adopt policies, exempt from chapters
4 91 and 92, to initiate the following:

- 5 (1) Develop criteria allowing more individuals with trade
6 or industry experience to teach in vocational,
7 technical, and career pathway programs, and criteria
8 for the issuance of permits allowing qualified
9 individuals to teach when recommended by the
10 superintendent. The department shall be responsible
11 for the review and acceptance of the relevant
12 licenses, certificates, or other qualifications
13 related to an individual's vocational, technical, or
14 career pathway education-related experience that the
15 department deems necessary for a permit. The
16 department shall have the authority to waive the
17 requirement of a bachelor's degree to teach in a
18 [~~vocation,~~] vocational, technical, or career pathway
19 education program;
- 20 (2) Develop a plan to accept teachers from any state as
21 long as they have completed state-approved teacher



- 1 education programs and pass relevant Hawaii teacher
2 examinations or their equivalent;
- 3 (3) Clarify the requirements, on a state-by-state basis,
4 for out-of-state licensed teachers to obtain a license
5 in Hawaii;
- 6 (4) Develop a plan to facilitate licensing for those who
7 intend to teach in Hawaii immersion programs, the
8 island of Niihau, or any other extraordinary situation
9 as defined by the superintendent or the
10 superintendent's designee; ~~and~~
- 11 (5) Pursue full teacher license reciprocity with ~~[the mid-~~
12 ~~Atlantic states,]~~ all other states; and
- 13 (6) Issue Hawaii licenses to teachers with licenses issued
14 by California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New York,
15 Oregon, and Washington."

16 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

DOE; Teaching Licensure; Standards; Out-of-State Teachers

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of a Hawaii teacher's license based on the possession of an active license from California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Washington and requires the Hawaii teacher standards board to pursue full teacher license reciprocity with all other states. (SD1)

