

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2736

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 29 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2080

S.D. 2

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 2080, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to revoke a teacher's license when the teacher has been convicted of certain sexual offenses against a minor.

Testimony in support of the measure was submitted by the Department of Education and the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

Your Committee finds that the health and safety of our keiki, particularly while they are in school, is a high priority for the State. While the Department of Education takes necessary precautions in screening and hiring employees, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board can provide great assistance in ensuring that teachers convicted of certain crimes do not retain or renew their licenses to teach in the State. This measure requires the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to automatically revoke a teacher's license upon notice that a teacher has been convicted of a sexual offense against a minor. Although this practice is being examined by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board for inclusion in its administrative rules, your Committee believes that this matter is appropriate for statutory implementation to ensure the safety of our students.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Education to notify the clerk of the court of each individual who the Department has identified as a teacher who is being tried by the court for a sexual offense. The clerk of the court shall then transmit a copy of the judgment of conviction to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. This change will help the court clerk to identify which defendants are teachers;
- (2) Including sections 707-750, 707-751, 707-752, 707-753, and 707-756, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in the list of sexual offenses for which automatic revocation of a teacher's license applies;
- (3) Changing an incorrect reference to section 707-733.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to 707-733.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (4) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, for purposes of facilitating further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2080, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2080, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



