

Date of Hearing: January 25, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. 2192, Relating to Teachers

Purpose: To appropriate funds to the department of education to provide additional resources to support teacher quality.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of this bill to provide resources for continuous teacher development. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act mandates the State Educational Agency to develop an array of services for teachers to meet the requirements of the law. Currently, the Department has an alternative route to licensure program, three teacher education programs, and a variety of professional development courses. However, due to the impact of NCLB, the Department continues to seek ways to expand content and pedagogy courses in the areas of math, science, and English. Resources are needed to expand programs through on-line learning to service teachers in remote areas.

The Department feels that under the mandate of NCLB, there is a great need and immediacy for services to meet the requirements of the law.

Therefore, expanding the contract to include private vendors and private institutes of higher education would greatly benefit the teachers.

The Department supports this bill only if the funds are above and beyond the Board of Education's budget priorities.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2192 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

January 25, 2008 at 2:00pm

by
Donald B. Young, Acting Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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HB 2192: Relating to Teachers

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i opposes HB 2192, which appropriates "funds to the department of education to explore various resources for educating teachers to find innovative ways to motivate their students."

While the intent is admirable, the Bill as drafted is vague and provides insufficient guidelines to determine how the intent of the bill is to be met even if appropriated funds are expended. There is ample research available on student motivation, which could be examined for innovative practices that increase motivation, and there are existing professional development programs that focus on differentiated instruction to increase student motivation and ability to engage in learning. The Bill assumes that a problem exists within students and that teachers do not have the knowledge or skills to stimulate them to learn. There is little evidence to support this assumption.

We would favor instead a bill that provided funds to the department of education to implement research-based professional development practices to enhance teacher effectiveness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: HB 2192 - RELATING TO TEACHERS

January 25, 2008

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ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee;

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The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HB 2192 which gives teachers more resources to expand their professional development.

Teachers are encouraged to broaden their scope of professional development in order to keep learning fresh and exciting for the students. We do this through taking college courses, training workshops, or professional development classes which come with an expense, the majority of the time, from our own pockets.

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We believe that the Department of Education should be offering professional development courses at no expense to the teachers. It is the employer's obligation to pay for professional development when changes are mandated by the employer. We urge the committee to pass this bill.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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