

Date of Hearing: February 8, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. 2279, Making an appropriation for the Hawaii teacher cadet program.

Purpose: To appropriate funds for the Hawaii teacher cadet program to address the teacher shortage.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports H.B. 2279, and appreciates the Legislature's recognition of the critical shortage of trained teachers within the public school system and the importance of qualified teachers in supporting student achievement.

The Department supports the Hawaii Alliance for Future Teachers, teacher cadet program, as it enables high school students to make an informed career decision to teach in Hawaii public schools.

While the Department supports the appropriation of funds to the teacher cadet program, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.