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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD  
650 Iwilei Road, Suite 201  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

**RE: HB2368 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**Friday, February 8, 2008**

**DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

Chairman Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board supports HB2368 HD1 Relating to Education as it seeks to comply with the NCLB provisions for highly qualified teachers.

The Board strongly supports Section 3 of the bill. We have been advocating for the sharing of data with the Department for the past seven years and we are hopeful that there will be progress this year.

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board understands the rationale for Section 4 of HB2368 HD1 Relating to Education. We believe the Office of the Attorney General should be consulted as to whether the law can treat separate groups of emergency hires differently by allowing one group more time than the other to achieve licensure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

RE: HB 2368 HD 1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

February 8, 2008

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association agrees with the intent of HB 2368 HD 1 which amends our state law with the federal law of three years to obtain a teacher license. We believe that all teachers should be licensed prior to being hired by the department. We are cognizant of the shortage of teachers and that the department must hire non-licensed personnel to fill the vacancies.

However, not all teachers have to be highly qualified by the NCLB definition. Only teachers of core subjects have to meet the three-year requirement if they are presently not highly qualified. Teachers of non-core subjects do not have to meet the federal test of being highly qualified. We are concerned that incumbent teachers who were hired on an emergency basis are working toward their license with the understanding that they will have the four years to work toward becoming licensed. Often they space the classes and tests needed to obtain their license over the four-year period.

At an earlier hearing with the House Education Committee, we suggested that incumbent emergency hires who are not in core subject areas be grandfathered and be given four years to complete their licensure. We would like to bring our suggestion made to this committee's attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

February 8, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
Presented by  
Christine Sorensen, Dean  
College of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**HB 2368, HD1: Relating to Education**

Chair Sonson, Vice Chair Nakasone, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 2368, HD1, which directs the Department of Education (DOE) and Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to work collaboratively to align state and federal teacher licensure requirements; reduces the years an individual may be employed as a teacher on an emergency basis from 4 to 3; allows unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis before the effective date of the Act to become licensed no later than four years from the date of their employment.

The State of Hawai'i's 18th Legislature enacted Act 240, which required a license to teach and transferred the authority for setting public school teacher licensing standards from the DOE to the HTSB, an independent governing body like those that exist for other professions.

The 21st Legislature enacted Act 312, which transferred from the DOE to the HTSB the authority for issuing, renewing, suspending, revoking, and reinstating teacher licenses. Thus, the licensing and employment functions were separated as they are in other states to eliminate the inherent conflict of interest. Since July 1, 2002, the HTSB has been responsible for teacher licensing.

The changes identified in HB 2368, HD1 will result in aligning federal and state requirements and reduce confusion in the teacher workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.