

LATE TESTIMONY

Date of Hearing: February 4, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2080, Relating to teacher licensure

Purpose: To require the Hawaii teacher standards board to revoke a teacher's license when the teacher has been convicted of certain sexual offenses against minors.

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports S.B. 2080 which requires the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to revoke a teacher's license when a teacher has been convicted of certain sexual offenses against minors. The safety of our students is paramount. It should be noted that HTSB is currently incorporating the revocation of teacher licenses based on convictions of sexual/other offenses into their administrative rules, making statutory changes unnecessary if the new rules are adopted before this proposal can be enacted.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2080 – RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSURE.

February 4, 2008

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2080.

The Association does not have problem with revocation of a teachers license if a teachers is convicted of criminal acts towards a minor. Schools should be a safe haven for students; this bill will enhance the health and safety of our students.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2080 Relating to Teacher Licensure

Monday, February 4, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENTINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

Since approval of our recent amendments to our administrative rules by the Governor, we have a Code of Ethics to guide our work on drafting rules for revoking, suspending, denying and reinstating a teacher's license. My colleagues and I have, for the past several months, been reviewing the rules used in several other states and identified elements that we believe are needed in ours.

We have also had very heavy discussions about these elements because we fully understand the impact that revoking, suspending, or denying a teacher's license will have on the teacher's ability to seek or keep employment. License revocation due to a teacher's conviction of a sexual offense has been one of these heavy topics of discussion. The Board shares SB 2080's serious concern about protecting our children from those who have committed such offenses.

We believe that the provisions of SB 2080 should be spelled out in administrative rules rather than in statute. But we also know that in previous sessions, the Legislature has passed measures that spelled out a specific condition under which a teacher's license should be revoked. For this reason, if this bill should pass, we believe that it should become part of §302A-807.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.