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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

RE: SB 2080 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSURE.

March 25, 2008

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

LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2080, SD2, HD1.

The Association does not have a problem with the revocation of a teacher's license if a teacher 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.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNORSHARON C. MAHOE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

TESTIMONY**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY****RE: SB2080 SD2 HD1 Relating to Teacher Licensure****Tuesday, March 25, 2008****DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON**
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**LATE TESTIMONY**

Chairman Waters and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board supports SB2080 SD2 HD1 Relating to Teacher Licensure, which will require the revocation of a teacher's license when the teacher has been convicted of certain sexual offenses against a minor.

Since receiving the Governor's approval of our Code of Ethics in November 2007, we have been drafting rules for revoking, suspending, denying and reinstating a teacher's license. My colleagues and I have had very lengthy discussions about the kinds of behaviors or offenses that would result in the revoking, suspending, or denying of a teacher's license and the impact this will have on the teacher's ability to seek or keep employment. I can assure you that we share SB 2080 SD2 HD1's serious concern about protecting our children from those who have committed such offenses.

We have a concern, however, about the last 4 lines of Section (d) of the bill. We do not have the ability nor the resources to track all individuals who are being tried in court, to screen out only those being tried for the sexual offenses referenced in the bill, and then to identify which of these offenders are teachers. We believe that the law enforcement agencies and courts are in a better position to do this, since they collect this information when making an arrest and processing the case. For this reason, we recommend the following amendment:

"...provided further that when any individual is being tried by a court of an offense listed in subsection (a) the ~~board~~ clerk of the court shall notify the ~~clerk of the court~~ board that the individual is a teacher."

With the above amendment, we believe that the provisions of SB 2080 SD2 HD1 concur with our Board's thinking. We understand the seriousness of these crimes and feel that statutory language will provide strong support for our proposed rule changes. We believe that §302A-807 is the section where these provisions should be added.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER