

Date of Hearing: March 14, 2008

Committees: House Education and Labor & Public
Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2080, SD2 (SSCR2736). 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 a minor.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. 2080, SD2 (SSCR2736) which requires the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to revoke a teacher's license when the teacher has been convicted of certain sexual offenses against a minor. 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. The Department is not the only agency that employs teachers with a Hawaii teaching license. Independent schools and charter schools also employ teachers. As such, the Department respectfully requests the following changes to Section 1 (d) of S.B.2080, SD2 to read as follows: "provided that the Department of Education, independent school agency or charter school agency in Hawaii ~~shall identify~~ notify the Board of the teachers for whom this section applies and the Board shall notify the clerk of the court of each individual identified ~~by the department~~ as a teacher who is being tried by the court of a sexual offense, as described in subsection (a)."

The Department's proposed amendment is intended to protect all students.



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

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

RE: SB2080 SD2 Relating to Teacher Licensure

Friday, March 14, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

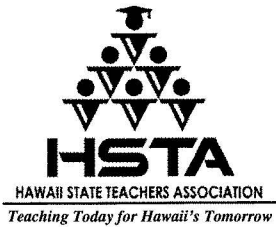
Chairman Takumi, Chairman Sonson and Members of the Committees:

Since approval of our recent amendments to our administrative rules by the Governor, we have a Code of Ethics to guide our work in 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 we have 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 SD2's serious concern about protecting our children from those who have committed such offenses.

We believe that the provisions of SB 2080 SD2 concur with our Board's thinking and should this bill pass, we have no problems with incorporating it into our administrative rules. 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.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

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

March 14, 2008

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

Chairs Takumi, Sonson, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2080, SD2.

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.