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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2163 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Friday, February 22, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board would like to first suggest that Section 1 is inaccurate. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law does not contain licensing requirements. We, therefore, suggest that Section 1 be replaced with the following:

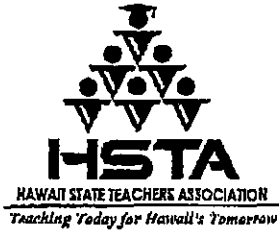
"The No Child Left Behind law sets forth various requirements and for many states the federal requirements have created contradictions and misunderstanding about what constitutes a qualified teaching workforce.

The purpose of this Act is to enable the Department of Education to comply with the requirements made by the federal government."

The Board recommends deletion of Section 2. In September 2007 when the Department requested that we make this change in our rules, the Board cooperated fully and drafted rules to accomplish this. We are, therefore, perplexed as to why the Department proceeded to introduce a bill that mandates us to do what we have already done at its request. Such duplication is unnecessary.

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board understands the rationale for the change proposed in Section 3 of SB2163 Relating to Education. Compared to the federal government's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law's restriction of emergency hires to only three (3) years of employment, the provisions of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board are deemed too generous, i.e. we currently allow emergency hires to be employed for up to four (4) years as long as they annually demonstrate active pursuit of a license. NCLB renders our emergency hires out of compliance unless this statutory change is made. We believe, however, that if this provision is passed, it will not sit well with the Department of Education's emergency hires.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2163 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 22, 2008

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

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association is in agreement with SB 2163 in that we believe our state law should conform to 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. However, we are cognizant of the shortage of teachers and that the department must hire non-licensed personnel to fill the vacancies.

The reason for the change from four years to three years is to conform to the highly qualified teacher requirements of No Child Left Behind. 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.

We are suggesting that incumbent emergency hires who are not in core subject areas be grandfathered and be given four years to complete their licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.