

Date of Hearing: March 27, 2008

Committee: House Finance

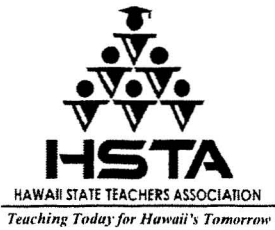
Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SB2163, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1285-08) RELATING TO
EDUCATION

Purpose: Directs the Department of Education and the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to adopt new administrative rules to align state and federal teacher licensing requirements. Reduces the number of years an individual may be employed as a teacher on an emergency basis.

Department's Position: The Department supports this bill in its current form and respectfully requests that the Committee act favorably.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: SB 2163 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

March 27, 2008

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2163 SD1 HD 1. We believe our state law should conform to the three-year-old federal law with regard to teacher licensure. 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 Association is pleased with the amendment within this house draft which will allow unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis, prior to this bill's effective date, the four years they understood they would have to obtain their license at time of hiring.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.