

Revised

Date of Hearing: March 14, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SB2163, SD1 SSCR2661 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. The Senate draft reflects the changes requested by the Department of Education. The DOE requests that the bill become effective July 1, 2008.



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: SB2163 SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Friday, March 14, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Takumi, Chairman Sonson and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board understands the rationale for the change proposed in Section 2, Item (3)(C) of SB2163 SD1 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 current emergency hires. We are uncertain whether Item (3)(D) creates two classes of teachers treated differently based on the subject they happen to teach. More importantly, we believe it fair to allow a teacher who, when hired, was assured that he/she had up to four years to become licensed to indeed, have the full four years. For this reason we believe it is preferable that, if enacted, the 3-year limit would apply only to new emergency hires from the date of enactment forward. Then no one would receive preferential treatment. In its current form, (3)(D) would also create confusion for a teacher who teaches both a core and non-core subject. How many years would such a teacher be allowed? For this reason we recommend the following language to substitute for (3)(D):

- (D) Notwithstanding section (3)(C), unlicensed individuals who have been hired on an emergency basis prior to the approval of this Act shall be allowed no more than four years from the date of their employment to pursue licensure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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

RE: SB 2163, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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 2163, SD 1 which limits the duration of employment of an emergency unlicensed hire of the Department of Education to three years and allows teachers in non-core subjects to become licensed within four years of their employment.

The Association believes 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. Teachers in non-core subjects do not have to meet the federal law of being highly qualified. We are pleased with the acknowledgement that teachers teaching in non-core subject areas prior to the approval of this measure will be allowed to attain licensure no later than four years from the date of their employment.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.