

Personal Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education

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by

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**SB 2224: Relating to Teachers**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Young and I am the acting dean for the College of Education. I oppose SB 2224, which appropriates "funds to the department of education to explore various resources for educating teachers to find innovative ways to motivate their students."

While the intent is admirable, the Bill as drafted is vague and provides insufficient guidelines to determine how the intent of the bill is to be met even if appropriated funds are expended.

There is ample research available on student motivation, which could be examined for innovative practices that increase motivation, and there are existing professional development programs that focus on differentiated instruction to increase student motivation and ability to engage in learning. The Bill assumes that a problem exists within students and that teachers do not have the knowledge or skills to stimulate them to learn. There is little evidence to support this assumption.

We would favor instead a bill that provided funds to the department of education to implement research-based professional development practices to enhance teacher effectiveness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.