

testimony

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony: SB 3252,SD 1 Relating to Teachers

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3252, SD 1.

I am an educational consultant currently on contract with Hawaii Pacific University. I am also a retired State Department of Education employee having served as an Educational Officer with the Department for 32 years. I have had the privilege of participating as a member of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) off and on for a period of over 20 years.

The TECC is comprised of representatives from each of the Institutions of Higher Education(IHEs) that offer teacher education programs, the Department of Education(DOE) and the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board(HTSB) TECC has for a number of years faced the challenges of the persistent teacher shortage in Hawaii. Realizing that no single university or teacher education program can meet the needs of the State, the members of the TECC have come together to propose a set of initiatives that will jointly begin to tackle the staffing shortage problem.

The TECC priorities contained in SB 3252, i.e. Part II (PRAXIS preparation), IV (workforce planning), V (professional development schools), VI (professional development courses, VIII (teacher cadet program, and IX (induction-mentoring) represent a historically significant collaborative effort to meet the challenges of providing and retaining highly qualified teachers for Hawaii. These initiatives have been thoughtfully developed based on reseach, the wisdom of professional practice and experience, and a strong desire to meet the educational needs of the children and youth of Hawaii.

Each subset is a critical piece in the puzzle. Implemented together, they can and will make a significant difference in the education of Hawaii's children.

I strongly urge your committee to approve SB 3252, SD 1.

Sincerely,
Antonette Port
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