



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Roger K. Takabayashi
President
Wii Okabe
Vice President
Karolyn Mossman
Secretary-Treasurer
Mike McCartney
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2449 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 8, 2008

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

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports SB 2449.

The collective bargaining agreement between the Hawaii State Teachers Association and the Department of Education for 2007-2009 reduced the probationary period from two years to one year. The reduction of the probationary period was agreed upon by the signatories of the agreement – the Governor, the Board of Education and the Department of Education. This bill will adjust Section 302A-607 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes with the collective bargaining agreement of 2007-2009.

We strongly urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Date of Hearing: February 8, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2449, Relating to education.

Purpose: Authorizes the board of education to establish the duration of probationary periods for new teachers, principals, and vice-principals of the department of education.

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports the intent of S.B. 2449, which changes the minimum period of time that teachers, principals, and vice-principals shall serve as probationary employees of the department from two (2) years to one (1) year to conform state statute to the negotiated Unit 5 Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2007-2009. Rather than set the minimum probationary period by statute to one (1) year, we recommend adopting language similar to S.B. 2678 and H.B. 2367, which provides the board of education and the superintendent of education the flexibility to determine the minimum amount of time that new teachers, principals or vice-principals shall serve during their initial probationary period.

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