

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2008

Committee: House Labor & Public
Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2449, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1229-08), Relating to education

Purpose: To repeal provisions relating to the probationary period for first-time teachers, principals, and vice-principals of the Department of Education.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports S.B. 2449, SD2, HD1. Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the exclusive representative for Bargaining Unit 5 and the State, newly employed teachers of the DOE are subject to a probationary period of one year or two semesters. Currently, under Section 302A-607, all new teachers, principals, and vice-principals are subject to probationary periods of two years.

S.B. 2449, SD2, HD1, repeals Section 302A-607.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

RE: SB 2449, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

April 1, 2008

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

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports SB 2449, SD2, HD1.

This bill will repeal Section 302A-607 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, which regulates probationary periods for teachers, principals and vice principals. Repealing this section will enable probationary periods to be set during contract negotiations, providing greater flexibility in decision-making process. The Association believes the repeal will be in the best interest of all parties involved.

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.

We strongly urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.