

Date of Hearing: February 22, 2008

Committee: Senate Judiciary and Labor

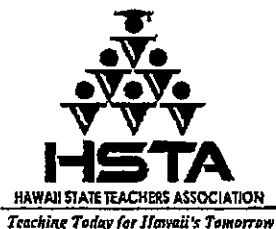
Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2449, SD1 (SSCR2265), Relating to education

Purpose: To specify that the duration of probationary periods for new teachers, principals, and vice-principals of the department of education shall be two years, unless otherwise negotiated pursuant to collective bargaining.

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports S.B. 2449, SD 1 (SSCR2265), which changes the minimum period of time that new teachers, principals and vice principals shall serve as probationary employees of the Department of Education shall be two (2) years, unless otherwise negotiated pursuant to collective bargaining. Enactment of S.B. 2449, SD 1 will 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, 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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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

RE: SB 2449, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 22, 2008

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

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports SB 2449, SD1.

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.