

Date: 02/08/2008

Committee: Senate Education

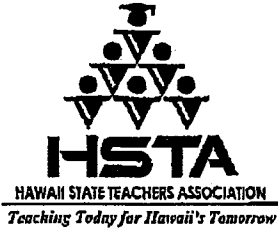
Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2500 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds for the construction of a new classroom building on the campus of Lana'i high and elementary school.

Department's Position: The Department of Education's (DOE) supplemental budget request includes \$8 million for this project. We are currently preparing a Request for Proposal to design and build this facility. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2500 – 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 supports SB 2500.

This bill will provide for general obligation bonds to be issued for the purpose of building a new classroom building on Lanai High and Elementary school. The Association believes school and classroom environments are important factors that determine to a significant degree, the quality of the education we are providing to Hawaii's children. Research indicates a strong correlation exists between a clean, comfortable environment and success in learning.

We would also suggest the committee consider adding funds to this measure for the purpose of building new teacher housing on Lanai. Since materials and construction costs for teacher housing could be combined with construction of the classroom building, by undertaking both projects at the same time, economies of scale could be realized.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.