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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2653 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

January 30, 2008

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

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2653, which appropriates funds for a Hawaii Beginning Teacher Induction Pilot Program within the Department of Education.

Currently, the Windward District has a peer assistance program similar to the proposed teacher induction pilot program. During its existence, the program has been successful in recruiting and retaining teachers on the Windward side.

We believe the funds required to assist the Department of Education to begin this Beginning Teacher Induction Pilot Program will enable new teachers to function more effectively and maintain enthusiasm for their work as they adjust to a new work environment.

We ask the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 Iwilei Road, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2653 Relating to Teachers

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENTINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board supports SB 2653 Relating to Teachers because we believe that providing a high quality induction program for new and beginning teachers is an effective strategy for addressing the Department of Education's need to support and retain good teachers.

We particularly support SB 2653's provisions for:

- Highly trained mentors
- A reasonable mentor to new/beginning teacher ratio
- Individual induction plans for each participating teacher
- Program evaluation and improvement
- Regular and frequent meetings between the mentor and new/beginning teacher
- Release time to allow teachers to observe exemplary teachers
- Use of the New Teacher Center Formative Assessment system which aligns with the Hawaii Teacher Performance Standards

On page 4, line 4-5, we suggest that consideration be given to selecting mentors who show evidence of working effectively with adult learners.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.