

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2655, Relating to education

Purpose: To appropriate funds to establish professional development schools within Hawaii public schools to train preservice teachers.

Department's Position: The Department of Education strongly supports S.B. 2655 which would establish and fund professional development schools. The development of these exemplary schools, with structures that support teacher candidate training and learning, faculty development, and enhance student learning, will positively impact the quality of education in Hawaii. However, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budgets requests before this measure.



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2655 Relating to Education

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

My colleagues and I on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board strongly support SB2655 Relating to Education, which appropriates funds to establish Professional Development Schools (PDSs) within Hawaii public schools to prepare pre-service teachers.

Our board is proud to be part of the Hawaii Policy Group for the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. In 2001 we all worked to support Act 313 because we believed that establishing and supporting Professional Development Schools is an effective way of preparing new teachers in a real school setting while simultaneously providing professional development opportunities to in-service teachers much like how teaching hospitals enable interns to learn alongside residents and experienced doctors.

These schools are clinical sites where professional standards of practice are developed, refined, and institutionalized; where cohorts of teaching interns participate in structured induction programs; where both teaching practice and induction are knowledge-based; and where inquiry, research, and reflection are used to continually test, refine, and expand this knowledge base.

At PDS sites the entire school is involved in the induction of the pre-service and the novice teacher, not just a single cooperating or master teacher. PDSs are context-oriented so sites should reflect the geographic, ethnic, and economic diversity of Hawaii's student population

At a time of limited resources, investing in Professional Development Schools makes good sense because it not only provides for new teacher preparation, but also promotes university and P-12 faculty development, directs inquiry at the improvement of teaching practice, and focuses on student achievement. Interns prepared in PDSs are eagerly sought for employment because of the rich experiences afforded them through the PDS partnership and their ability to hit the road running.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Date: January 28, 2008

Committee: Education

Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 1:15 p.m. State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 225

Person Testifying: Dr. Valentina M. Abordonado, Director, Teacher Education Program, Hawai'i Pacific University

Title of the Bill: SB 2655

Purpose of the Bill:

Appropriates funds to establish professional development schools within Hawaii public schools to train preservice teachers.

Hawaii Pacific University Teacher Education Program's Position:

The Hawaii Pacific University Teacher Education Program (HPU TEP) is dedicated to preparing highly qualified teachers for the State of Hawaii, and as such, supports the Legislature's continuing efforts to address the critical shortage of teachers.

The Hawaii Pacific University Teacher Education Program concurs with the intent of this Bill and strongly supports the appropriation of funds for this program.

As the largest private institution of higher learning in the State of Hawaii, HPU's Teacher Education Program has entered into formal affiliation agreements signed by Hawaii State Superintendent of Education at four partner public schools in each of the districts on Oahu. These school-university partnership agreements enable HPU to prepare highly qualified teachers for the State while contributing to the professional development needs of the school. It is the vision of our university to extend this partnership to developing professional development schools, which would enable our university to serve our public schools by delivering courses on their campuses and participating in other professional development activities that directly benefit the partner school. Legislative funding for this initiative would go a long way to realizing this vision.

Therefore, we believe that the Legislature would be well-served to support this bill as it would not only serve to support professional development schools, which have a long, research-based history of improving student learning, but also because it would contribute significantly to the professional development needs of our State's in-service and pre-service teachers.

Antonette Port
Educational Consultant
808-941-9624

January 30, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Testimony: SB 2655 Relating to Education

My name is Antonette Port and I am here in strong support of SB 2655.

I am an educational consultant currently on contract with Hawaii Pacific University. I am also a retired State Department of Education employee having served as an Educational Officer with the Department for 32 years. I also served as Director of the School -University Partnership for several years.

Professional Development Schools involve a special relationship between a teacher education program in a university and public schools whose purposes are: improved student learning; improved preparation of new teachers; professional development; and inquiry directed at the improvement of professional practice.

Professional Development Schools are based on a set of core values which include collaboration between Institutions of Higher Education and public schools through shared responsibility for the improvement of teacher preparation and student achievement.

SB 2655 will provide public schools with the opportunity to make a commitment toward becoming Professional Development Schools.

I strongly urge your committee to approve SB 2655.

Sincerely,

Antonette Port