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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2656 – 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 2656, which appropriates funds for public school teachers to take PRAXIS preparatory courses, tutorials, or programs that will lead to them becoming classified as highly qualified under the terms of the No Child Left Behind Act.

All teacher candidates in Hawaii must take and pass the PRAXIS exam in their field. The PRAXIS fee that teacher candidates pay comes out of their own pockets. The PRAXIS is a difficult test and daunting for many taking it the first time. SB 2656 will allow teachers taking the PRAXIS to enroll in PRAXIS preparation courses, the cost of which will be borne by the Department of Education. Upon passing the PRAXIS these prospective teachers obtain the designation of highly qualified teacher and are able to teach in the state, helping Hawaii reach the federally imposed mandate of having all teachers certified as highly qualified.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.