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**TESTIMONY OF THE
HAWAII CARPENTERS UNION, LOCAL 745**

February 1, 2008

TO: Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Honorable Brian Taniguchi
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: HB2658 RELATING TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
Friday, February 1, 2008, 3:45 pm
State Capitol Room 225

Chair Sakamoto and Chair Taniguchi:

The Hawaii Carpenters Union strongly supports SB2658. The bill establishes that the interim compensation of substitute teachers shall be tied to the salary or wage increases provided to licensed class II teachers of the Department of Education, and appropriates funds for retroactive pay and per diem increases for substitute teachers.

For the past several years, the Hawaii Carpenters Union has supported Hawaii's 5000 substitute teachers during their plight for fair wages. Their long-standing dispute with the DOE is troublesome, and we are pleased that the Legislature has stepped in to provide temporary relief by setting an interim rate pay rate in 2005 and 2006. SB2658 provides a reasonable means to determine interim substitute teacher pay on an on-going basis until the lawsuits with the DOE are resolved.

SB2658 also provides retroactive wages for substitute teachers for the 2007-08 school year. While regular teachers received a 4% increase; substitute teachers receive no increases. It's only fair that substitute teachers receive similar pay increases for their service to our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.