

Date: 02/08/2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2662 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

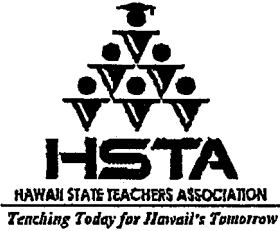
Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to modernize Hawaii's schools and classrooms with such items and services as textbooks, supplies, equipment, computers, software licenses, and services.

Department's Position: The Department supports this bill and appreciates this support for student achievement by providing additional one-time funding for textbooks, supplies, equipment, computers, software licenses, and services. While the Department supports the appropriation of funds for non-recurring costs, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.

SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2662 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS

February 8, 2008

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

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association agrees with the intent of SB 2662.

A large part of providing Hawaii's children with a high-quality public education is the use of textbooks, supplies, equipment, computers, software licenses, and a variety of support services. Many of our schools are lacking in some, if not all, of these. In those schools that do have these items, many are obsolete or need to be upgraded. SB 2662 will appropriate funds that could be used to bring Hawaii's schools and classrooms up to current standards.

We do have a concern about how this appropriation could affect the Weighted Student Formula (WSF). Would the fund be a separate fund specifically for the purpose it is intended? Or, will it be an addition to the WSF pool, in which case, the money will be dispersed for use as the principal sees fit. If it is the latter, we would suggest that within this bill a request be made of the DOE to create categories of funds corresponding to the areas of need within the WSF.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.