

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



## SB 2663 RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education

February 8, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
Presented by  
Christine Sorensen, Dean  
College of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB 2663: Relating to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2663, which changes the composition of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) and appropriates funds for data/information management efforts of the board. We offer some suggested changes.

Part I, Section 2 changes the composition of the board. We believe it is appropriate to have the majority of HTSB members be professionally licensed teachers. We caution against increasing the number of board members to fourteen since this will not result in the majority being teachers, and could present complications for the board in decision making since the result is an even number of members instead of an odd number. We favor instead keeping the current number of board members at thirteen with seven being licensed teachers.

Part II, Section 3 establishes the need for a teacher workforce data system. This appears to be the same database called for in SB 2880. Our testimony here is the same as in support of SB 2880.

The UH College of Education, along with all members of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC), recognize the need for a teacher workforce database and have unanimously supported its creation. The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC), in its report to the Legislature, in response to SCR 56 S.D.1 on the status of the Hawai'i teacher workforce recognized the inadequate, scattered, and unreliable data on the progress of teachers from teacher preparation, to obtaining a teaching license, to employment and retention. Such data are valuable not only for policy making, they are essential to the accreditation status of the Institutions of Higher Education that prepare new teachers. However, at present there is no reliable database with which to track teachers into the workforce or to determine their effectiveness. Many of the databases are compromised with personal information making the data unavailable to those who need to better understand the development of the teacher workforce. Collectively, we have the technical expertise to combine data sets at low cost, and to filter out confidential information that may be a part of the basic data of the DOE, IHEs, and

HTSB. We recommend an allocation of \$50,000 to assist in establishing this vital database.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SB 2663 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD.**

**February 8, 2008**

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

**Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:**

**The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2663.**

**The Association's understanding of the intent of the bill is enhance the composition of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, amending it to include no fewer than seven, instead of six, regular teachers actively engaged in a teaching position. The Association also understands that this bill does not affect or change the nominating process or voting procedure, but only clarifies the change to the composition of the board.**

**We urge 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: SB2663 Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

**Friday, February 8, 2008**

**DR. JONATHAN GILLENTINE, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board supports all but one of the changes proposed in SB2663 Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

In Section 2 of the bill, we believe the increase in the total members of the Board offsets the proposal to increase the minimum number of licensed teachers to no fewer than seven (7) resulting in a professional board without a majority of professionals. We feel that the current number of 13 members has worked well and that the only change needed is to provide for a majority of teaching professionals on the Board. For this reason, we ask that you not approve the amendment contained in Line 14 of Page 1 of the bill.

We strongly support Section 2's clarification of the term "regularly engaged in teaching." This terminology was originally included in the law because it is a term used by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to clarify who on its board can sit as a "teacher." Last year the Office of the Attorney General said that someone who teaches only one class meets this definition and we disagree. Teachers feel strongly that a board member who sits as a representative of teachers must indeed be teachers, school counselors or school librarians and since the board already has seats for school administrators, teacher board members should not also be administrators. Teacher board members should preferably spend more than 50% of their work assignment in teaching.

We also support the proposal in Section 2 that seek to clarify the organizations that can nominate individuals to serve on the Board. Being nominated by these organizations means that the individuals represent the interests of their constituency group and not their own personal interests.

In addition, we ask for your approval of the amendments in Section 2 that seek to ensure that the board composition is balanced and representative of the subject areas, grade levels, and geographic distribution of teachers and school administrators. This new language will describe what has already been past practice.

**Testimony on SB2663 Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

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The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board along with all the members of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee strongly supports Part II of the bill. We all have supported the development of a means by which we all can share information that will enable us to facilitate our work as well as provide data to be used for program improvement and for informing policy. The following is a list of examples.

**HTSB needs:**

- DOE reports about teachers' work site so that we can contact teachers more quickly.
- DOE reports of teachers terminated for cause so that we can determine whether an action on the teacher's license is needed.

**DOE needs:**

- HTSB reports of teachers' license status so that it can complete its NCLB reports as well as adjust teachers' probationary status as needed.
- HTSB reports of license denials or revocations so that these individuals are not employed by the DOE.

**Teacher preparation institutions need:**

- Aggregated data about their program completers—whether they sought a license and employment in Hawaii, where they are employed, how they are faring in the classroom, etc.
- The above data enables the institutions to demonstrate the degree to which their programs are meeting the State Approval of Teacher Education performance standards, i.e. whether their candidates are performing as desired.

**State policymakers need:**

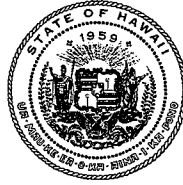
- Data that provides an accurate picture of teacher preparation, distribution, fields, etc., so that they can better plan for future needs.

The Board supports the intent of Part III of the bill, but we are confused about why a statutory change was needed to accomplish this. With regard to Page 7, Lines 7-8, I think a verbal request would have achieved the same result. In the past we have included information about how our budget has been used, but we were never advised that "income and expenditures" as mentioned in SB 2663 were missing and/or inadequately reported. We are even more confused by the amendments in Lines 9-10 on Page 7 since we have provided annually provided hard data in our report about licenses issued, etc.

As noted in every report we have submitted, we want to work with the Legislature and we believe that open and ongoing communications is necessary if we are to do so.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



L A T E

LINDA L. SMITH  
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

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GOVERNOR'S POLICY OFFICE  
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Testimony of Eric Barsatan  
Boards and Commission Manager

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
on  
SENATE BILL No. 2663

Friday, February 08, 2008  
1:15 P.M.  
Room 225

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the Committee, the Administration wishes to voice our strong opposition to Senate Bill 2663. This bill proposes to make three changes to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB):

- (1) Increases the number of teaching professionals on the Board to fourteen;
- (2) Defines "teachers regularly engaged in teaching" to mean teachers, school counselors, and school librarians who are not assigned the duties of a school administrator; and
- (3) Limits organizations that may nominate candidates as members on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to the Hawaii State Teachers Association union, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

The Administration has three objections to this bill. First, increasing the membership on the Board while limiting the nominating organizations to the HSTA and the HAIS, will affect the balance of the Board members. The result will be a Board with a predominantly public employee perspective, possibly with a majority membership that are teachers, as opposed to a balanced spectrum of members with an interest in public education and expertise that would provide valuable contributions to Board deliberations. If the members should increase, it should be with other constituents of the Board without limiting nominating organizations.

Second, by excluding school administrators in the definition of "teachers regularly engaged in teaching," it would mean limiting the opportunity for the Board to receive valuable viewpoints of teachers that have risen to the ranks and have become school administrators. It is very important to have members on the Board that have experience on both sides.

Third, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board was established to prescribe certification standards for public school teachers and the Board's membership includes licensed teachers and education officers (or school administrators including principals, vice-principals and professional employees), public charter schools, employed teachers and school administrators. Efforts to limit the organizations that can nominate Hawaii Teacher Standards Board members would do a disservice to the Board, to teachers and students, to the community, and to the various organizations that represent the teaching profession in Hawaii.

Our school community has grown to encompass not only public schools, but private independent schools, parochial schools, charter schools, e-schools, and home schools. It is incumbent to ensure there are persons on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to represent the array of education organizations in Hawaii today.

We respectfully ask that this bill be held in committee.