



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
MOANALUA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1289 MAHIOLE STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819  
February 8, 2008

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**Testimony to be presented on February 8, 2008 to the Senate Education Committee in opposition of the current language of SB 2663, relating to the Nomination Process of prospective members to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board:**

*Dear Honorable Chair Senator Sakamoto and Senate Education Committee Members,*

My name is Caroline Wong, and I would like to provide written and public testimony in opposition of the existing language of SB 2663, related to the nomination process for prospective members to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. I have been Principal of Moanalua Middle School for 17 years and I also represent principals on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

We have embarked on a journey of radical reform in schooling and it is truly exciting and I am optimistic about the future of public education in Hawaii. As I work with everyone in our learning community, which by the way also includes our legislators, I am humbled by the shared desire to *make a difference* for our students. We have an awesome responsibility to support legislation, policy and practice that will give us the very best outcomes for students in the classroom.

The concern that I would like to share with you today is that of the exclusive language of the nomination process to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board in Section 2b, which is inserted below:

(b) Except for the chairperson of the board of education, the superintendent, and the dean of the college of education, the governor shall appoint the members of the board pursuant to section 26-34, from a list of qualified nominees submitted to the governor by the ~~[departments, agencies, and organizations representative of the constituencies of the board.]~~ exclusive representative for public school teachers and school administrators and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools for the private school teachers. To

It is important to recognize several important problems related to the language in the proposed bill which contains this phrase: *...the exclusive representative for teachers and administrators and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)...*

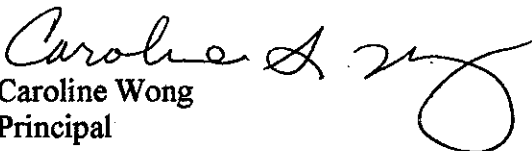
- HSTA is both the bargaining representative AND the professional organization for teachers;
- HAIS is a professional organization that represents private schools;

- HGEA is the exclusive bargaining representative when it comes to collective bargaining, employee and contractual issues; however, HGEA is not a professional organization that represents principals. It is the association that represents ALL Hawaii government employees.

All Licensing Boards reflect the professional standards of the members they represent. If you look at other professional licensing boards, like practicing doctors or attorneys, the professional organization is the group that makes nominations to the licensing board. Our Legislature has looked at best practice and models in other states (and provinces!) in the creation of legislation related to education in the past. However, I do not believe that any other state give the exclusive right to nominate members of a Professional Board only to the labor unions that represents those members through collective bargaining.

A draft proposal of this bill was approved by the Hawaii Teacher Standard Board, with members from all educator member role groups. However, when it was submitted the language was changed to create the exclusive nomination process. If we truly want the best educators to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, we must also hear the voice of the professional organizations for principals. I would like to see the language of the bill reversed so that the professional organizations also have a voice in the nomination of principals to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

I thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective, and respectfully request your support to *change the language of SB2663 to broaden the nomination process for members of the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board to include the professional organizations that represent ALL nominees.*

  
Caroline Wong  
Principal