



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 Iwilei Road, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB2663 SD2 HD1

Thursday, March 27, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENTINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board strongly supports the following changes proposed in SB2663 SD2 Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board:

- Section 3(a)'s provision for a majority of licensed teacher members on the Board and Section 3'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 a teacher, school counselor or school librarian and since the board already has seats for school administrators, teacher board members should not also be administrators.
- Section 3(b)'s clarification of how to ensure balance among the board's members according to subject area taught, school grade level served, and neighbor island/Oahu distribution

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board along with all the members of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee strongly supports Part III 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.

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- 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 IV of the bill, but we are unclear about why a statutory change was needed to accomplish this. With regard to page 8, lines 6-7, in the past we have included information about how our budget has been used, but we were never advised that “income and expenditures” were missing and/or inadequately reported. We are further confused by the amendments in Lines 8-9 on page 8 since we have 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.

We continue to ask for clarification and explanation about Section 9. What is the intent of lines 3-6 on page 10 and how does this impact all the other amendments contained in SB2663 SD2 HD1? We recommend the following change to Section 9 to make the intent clear.

~~SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2008; provided further that the amendments made to section 302A-803(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, in section 7 of this Act, shall not be repealed when that section is reenacted on July 1, 2009, pursuant to section 4 of Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007].~~

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Date of Hearing: March 27, 2008

Committee: House Finance

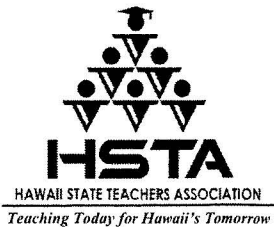
Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2663, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1287-08), Relating to the Hawaii teacher standards board

Purpose: To make clarifying changes to the membership and nomination process of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB). Appropriates funds for HTSB to coordinate an effort to create a network incorporating the teacher education institutions and the Department of Education to support the free interchange of information valuable to all participating organizations. Expands the scope of information provided by HTSB in its annual report and summary report to the Governor and Legislature.

Department's Position: S.B. 2663, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1287-08) has five (5) parts. The Department of Education (Department) would like to comment on Part III only. The Department supports Part III in S.B. 2663, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1287-08) which appropriates funds for HTSB to coordinate an effort to create a network incorporating the teacher education institutions and the Department to support the free interchange of information valuable to all participating organizations. An electronic teacher licensing system would expedite operations and avoid the need for duplicative collection of data by multiple institutions and agencies. This sharing of information would enable all parties to expedite the processes required in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. The Department supports the HTSB and partner agencies being directed to determine a mutually acceptable data transfer method for the data to be exchanged. The Department will work with participating organizations to agree on a list of transactions that each organization will be prepared to service and originate. The Department would appreciate the right to determine which licensing data the Department is willing to support in the interfacing of information.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: SB2663 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD.

March 27, 2008

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association finds that in other professional licensing boards, such as the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA), which oversees licensing of lawyers in Hawaii, the board is composed of practicing lawyers not judges or inactive lawyers. We strongly feel the composition of HTSB should also follow suit and include active teachers, since it is the entity for which the state licenses professional public school teachers. The current HTSB composition is inappropriate. Accordingly, we would like to offer some amendments to SB 2663, SD 2, HD1.

The following are amendments we would like to offer:

-Part II, Section 3, Subletter (a) should read as follows, adding wording in *italics*:

For purposes of this section, "teachers regularly engaged in teaching" shall mean teachers, school counselors, and school librarians *who are in the public school system and are not assigned the duties of a school administrator.*

-Part II, Section 3, Subletter (b) should read as follows, completely striking out Line 4, striking Lines 1 and 2 and amending to read as follows:

(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 under the following guidelines [by] [the departments, agencies, and organizations representative of the constituencies of the board.];

- ~~(1) The exclusive representatives for public school teachers and school administrators; (1) Six (6) of the seven teacher position shall be submitted by the exclusive representative for public school teachers;~~
- ~~(2) Any national professional organization that represents teachers or school administrators with a local chapter in the State; and (2) One (1) of the seven teacher positions shall be at the discretion of the Governor;~~
- ~~(3) Any state chapter of a national professional organization that represents teachers or school administrators; (3) Three (3) of the three administrative positions shall be appointed by exclusive representative.~~
- ~~(4) The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools for the private school teachers.~~

The Association, as the exclusive representative for public school teachers, strongly believes two-thirds of members of HTSB, the entity which licenses our public school teachers, should be active teachers as defined in this bill. Nominees should be submitted by HSTA and approved by the governor. If HSBA licenses lawyers in Hawaii and is made up of active lawyers, why should HTSB be any different in its composition?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.