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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

**RE: SB 2663, SD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS
BOARD**

February 22, 2008

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

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association is in strong disagreement with SB 2663, SD1 in its current form. The purpose of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) is to set licensing standards and issue licenses for Hawaii public school teachers.

The 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 questionable. We have a concern and would like to offer some amendments to SB 2663, SD 1.

The concern is addressed to Part II, Section 3, Subletter (b), Line 2. Our question is what are some examples of "national professional organization"? We would like clarification to this section.

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 3, 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 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) The exclusive representatives for public school teachers who are: National Board Certified or who have been recognized as distinguished teachers.

~~(2) Any national professional organization that represents teachers or school administrators with a local chapter in the State; and~~ (2) The exclusive representative for public school administrators;

~~(3) 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.