



L A T E

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2734 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 4, 2008

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

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2734.

Hawaii is a very unique place in which we are a melting pot of many different ethnicities. This bill will establish a cultural activities education program that will provide opportunities for our students to learn about other cultures.

However, with the current implementation of the Weighted Student Formula (WSF), unless these additional funds were to be made categorical, it would enter the WSF pool and be dispersed among the 175,000 students and not fully reach the intended recipients. I would suggest that within this bill a request be made of the DOE to create categorical funds in the areas of need within the WSF. These categories would then be divided by identified students of each area. This structure would allow additional funds for bills with similar intent to target specific areas of need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.