



L A T E 1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2714 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Roger K. Takabayashi
President
Wil Okabe
Vice President
Karolyn Mossman
Secretary-Treasurer
Mike McCartney
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2787 – 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 agrees to the intent of SB 2787.

The Association recognizes that all students are entitled to a high quality public school education. This bill will provide for additional funding to assist our English Language Learners succeed in school.

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.