

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2880 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 8, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by
Christine Sorensen, Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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SB 2880: Relating to Education

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

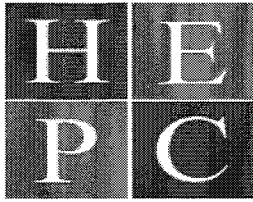
The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2880, which authorizes the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to coordinate an effort that creates a data interface network to promote the free interchange of information among public and private Hawai'i teacher education institutions and the department of education.

SB 2880 duplicates SB 2663 Part II, Section 3, which establishes the need for a teacher workforce data system. This appears to be the same database called for in SB 2663. Our testimony here is the same as in support of SB 2663 with some suggested language changes.

The UH College of Education along with all members of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) recognize the need for a teacher workforce database and have unanimously supported its creation. The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC), in its report to the Legislature, in response to SCR 56 S.D.1 on the status of the Hawai'i teacher workforce recognized the inadequate, scattered and unreliable data on the progress of teachers from teacher preparation, to obtaining a teaching license, to employment and retention. Such data are valuable not only for policy making, they are essential to the accreditation status of the Institutions of Higher Education that prepare new teachers. However, at present there is no reliable database with which to track teachers into the workforce or to determine their effectiveness. Many of the databases are compromised with personal information making the data unavailable to those who need to better understand the development of the teacher workforce. Collectively, we have the technical expertise to combine data sets at low cost, and to filter out confidential information that may be a part of the basic data of the DOE, IHEs, and HTSB. We recommend an allocation of \$50,000 to assist in establishing this vital database.

We call your attention to page 2, line 4, which reads "board of education." The intent is clearly HTSB.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER
Informing the Education Community

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 8, 2008, 1:15 pm, Room 225

by
Donald B. Young, Director
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center

SB 2880: Relating to Education

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) supports the creation of a teacher workforce data base as described in SB 2880. This appears to be the same data base called for in SB 2663. Our testimony here is intended to address both bills.

Such a data base needs to have the following characteristics:

1. A home institution that has the capacity, orientation, and willingness to serve a larger group of stakeholders, the entire teacher preparation community, the Department of Education, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, and policy makers;
2. The knowledge and willingness to invest in the hardware, software, and personnel to operate a web-based warehouse that not only can analyze and summarize data streams from the various stakeholders, but also allow for policy makers and the general public to query it for specific configurations of data;
3. The capacity to produce timely reports to meet the needs of policy makers;
4. The autonomy and independence to go beyond the institution's core mission, budgetary priorities, and other challenges that often diminish the ability of an agency to serve others.

While attempting to collect data on licensing, teacher program completion, university course completion, higher education degree completion, etc., in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 S.D. 1 *Requesting the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center to Report on the Retention and Change in Assignment of Teachers within the Department of Education.*, HEPC found:

Data collection and reporting are scattered, and at times inconsistent or difficult to interpret. There are many purposes for collecting data, disaggregating it, etc. but data collection and analysis of the teacher preparation-recruitment-retention system has not been a priority. Data may exist pertinent to these issues, but decision makers are not yet able to easily access, compile, or analyze them. A state-level data warehouse system is necessary for these purposes. Complicating establishing such a system are data often "bundled" with

confidential information and personal identifications that under current law need to be removed before they can be shared.

The inability to locate reliable data to inform decision making on teacher workforce development, HEPC in its Interim Report on SCR 56 S.D. 1 recommended:

The Legislature should require and fund the development of an affordable, easy-to-implement, multi-agency teacher data system to identify and track teacher candidates through the educational, employment and professional development pipeline. The system should collect timely and ongoing data to assist policy makers in making decisions and in identifying important trends or patterns that inform and improve targeted teacher recruitment, hiring, retention, professional support and development, and premature retirement or leaving rates. Public agency stakeholders should be required by the Legislature to transfer appropriate data, with protocols to protect individual privacy, to this system.

SB 2880 appears to address this need.

HEPC also calls your attention to other recommendations in its Interim Report on SCR 56 S.D.1 on teacher workforce development, namely

- 1. In order to bring focus to teacher workforce issues, the Legislature should require that a special Teacher Workforce Strategic Planning Committee be formed to create, adopt, adapt, track and evaluate the implementation of a Strategic Teacher Workforce Development Plan. The Planning Committee should seek annual and timely input from the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC), which includes representatives from the Department of Education, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, and all major teacher preparation programs in Hawai'i.*
- 2. The Legislature should request the University of Hawai'i campuses and programs involved in teacher preparation to submit collective plans and budgets to form a seamless, coordinated, and non-duplicative system that optimizes the locations, resources, and expertise of all the institutional actors in teacher recruitment, preparation, employment, and retention.*

HEPC directs your attention to SB 2654, which seeks to implement the recommendations of HEPC. SB 2654 sets in motion the necessary conditions to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the goals of SCR 56 S.D.1. The HEPC supports this effort, noting that the plan should be inclusive of Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 teacher workforce development. Such planning and development falls within the P-20 Initiative, in which the University has been partner and leader.

The UH College of Education Dean and the TECC recognize the need for a teacher workforce database and have unanimously supported its creation. Collectively, we have the technical expertise to combine data sets at low cost, and to filter out confidential information that may be a part of the basic data of the DOE, IHEs, and HTSB.

Thank you for accepting our input on this issue.



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2880 Relating to Education

Friday, February 8, 2008

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board strongly supports SB2880 Relating to Education and its intent to enable our board, the Department of Education and all Hawaii State Approved Teacher Education institutions to develop interfaces with each other so that we can share critical data.

We all have a need for more timely and usable data. 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.
- 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.

We recommend an amendment on Page 2, Line 4-5: Delete "board of education" and replace with Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. We believe this was drafted in error.

Your support of SB2880 will provide a mechanism for all the parties to move toward sharing data for multiple purposes. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Date of Hearing: February 8, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

L A T E

Title: S.B. 2880, Relating to education

Purpose: To authorize the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to coordinate an effort that creates a data interface network to promote the free interchange of information among public and private Hawaii teacher education institutions and the Department of Education

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. 2880 which authorizes the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to coordinate an effort that creates a data interface network to promote the free interchange of information among public and private Hawaii teacher education institutions and the Department of Education. This interface is essential for the Department to continually meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Title II requirements.

In Section 1, accessibility to the necessary data on teachers will help the Department in our ability to plan for and strengthen quality teachers. 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 recommends on page 2, lines 4-10, that the Board of Education (BOE) be replaced by HTSB as the coordinator of this project. In Section 2, the Department strongly recommends that the technical method for data exchange not be specified in the legislation. There are many acceptable methods of data exchange and it is not reasonable to require a specific method in the law.

As written, the bill requires interface via "simple object access protocol" web services, which will require extensive and unnecessary expenses on the part of participating organizations in cases where the partner agencies

have legacy systems. For example, for most of the types of data to be exchanged between HTSB and participating organizations, a simple encrypted nightly file transfer will accomplish all of the objectives without requiring extensive modifications and/or complex “turnkey hardware, software, and communications translation solutions” as mandated in the bill.

The Department’s personnel system for certificated employees is such a legacy system. The Department plans to replace this system over the next three years as part of an automation project and it would be a huge and unnecessary waste of resources to build a complex interface for the old system, when proven, long-established file transfer methods can accomplish the same result. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that the legislation not prescribe a specific data transfer method. The Department recommends that the second and third sentences of Section 2 be replaced by “The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and partner agencies are 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.

In Section 3, to assist with the implementation of teacher licensing data interface network, the Department would need additional staff positions. However, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education’s supplemental operating budget request.