



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

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Vice President

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SCR 83 – REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE APPROPRIATE  
ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER  
STANDARDS BOARD.**

**March 12, 2008**

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

**Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:**

**The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports SCR 83, which requests a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB).**

**The Association has received a high volume of concerns regarding the HTSB's handling of teacher licensing. Because the State continues to find it difficult to recruit and retain teachers, we believe the study requested in SCR 83 will provide much-needed direction to improve the accountability of the HTSB.**

**We strongly urge the committee to pass this concurrent resolution.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**



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

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**RE: SCR 83 Requesting a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

**DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

At our meeting this week the members of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board discussed the contents of SCR 83 Requesting a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. It is clear that at the core of this resolution is a presumption that the DCCA model is correct.

We believe that there are key differences between licensing and licensing-related functions in professions such as the medical profession and the teaching profession. For this reason, we believe that any study to recommend an appropriate accountability structure must also study how other states manage teacher certification/licensure and how other states manage reviews of programs that prepare teachers for certification/licensure. A reasonable approach for the study sought in SCR 83 would not limit itself to one model from the outset by assuming that the DCCA model is the best or most effective model for teachers.

For this reason, we ask that you amend lines 35-43 on page 2 and lines 1-2 on page 3 to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is requested to commission an independent study that will [utilize] review the models of administratively attached boards used in other states with similar responsibilities for licensing of teachers and other school personnel and program approval for institutions that prepare teachers and other school personnel and compare those models with the model of the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for administratively attached boards and determine the statutory amendments needed for [this] an appropriate model to be in place. This may be a model between the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and the Department of Education, or [if instead] between the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board ~~should be transferred to~~ and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or between the Hawaii Teacher

Testimony on SCR83

Page 2 of 2

Standards Board and another agency, so that it conforms with this the model identified as providing the most accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness; and ...

During the Board's discussion Members also asked whether the Legislature will be providing funding for this independent study to be done.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 83, requesting a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Purpose: To request a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Department's Position: The Department of Education defers to Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) for comment on SCR 83.

Although HTSB is administratively attached to the Department, it has no oversight over the Board as they are not accountable to the Department. The Department supports keeping HTSB autonomous from the Department of Education.

The issue of commissioning an independent study that would utilize the model of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs comes under the purview of HTSB and, as such, we defer to HTSB for comment.