

Date of Hearing: April 11, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 83, SD 1 (SSCR3193), Requesting the auditor to conduct a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii teacher standards board.

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

Department's Position: Although the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) is administratively attached to the Department of Education (Department), it has no oversight over HTSB. The Department supports keeping HTSB autonomous. 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.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SCR 83, SD1 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON  
THE APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE FOR THE HAWAII  
TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD.**

April 11, 2008

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

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SCR 83, SD1, which requests the auditor to conduct a study on the appropriate accountability structure for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB).

The Association has received a high volume of phone calls and emails expressing concern 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, to be conducted by the auditor, as requested in SCR 83, SD1, will provide much-needed direction to improve the accountability of the HTSB.

We urge the committee to pass this concurrent resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.