

Date: 02/04/2009

Committee: House Education; Labor and
Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: H.B. 0177, RELATING TO CAUSES FOR DISCHARGE OR DEMOTION OF TEACHERS.

Purpose of Bill: Repeals the statute providing for the demotion of teachers.

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports H.B. 0177, which removes references to demotion as an action that may be taken by the Department of Education (DOE) against a DOE teacher. Demotion action against a DOE teacher has never been used or applied by DOE. DOE does not have a mechanism to demote a teacher because there is no "lower" position to which to demote that teacher. While DOE has different salary classes for teachers, a teacher's assignment to a salary class is based on the teacher's education and certification. DOE cannot demote a teacher from one salary class to a lower salary class because assignment to the salary class is determined by the level of education and certification a teacher has earned. If DOE were to demote a teacher from one salary class to a lower salary class, DOE would be failing to recognize the additional education and certification a teacher has already earned to achieve their current salary class. Therefore, statutory references to demotion against a teacher are not applicable and should be removed.