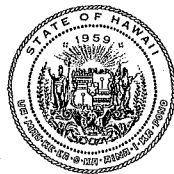


HB 183



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

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND HOUSING**

RE: HB 183 HD1 Relating to Education

Friday, March 20, 2009

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Members of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board **strongly support** HB 183 HD1 Relating to Education, which would authorize the Board to determine the manner by which license fees are collected.

Current statute requires the payment of fees through payroll deduction. Hawaii is the only state in the country that has such a requirement. In all other states, license fees are paid for the validity period of the license prior to receipt of the license. All other professions and occupations in Hawaii also pay for their license prior to its issuance.

Currently, we receive hard copies of the Payroll Assignment Register and it is impossible to track payment of fees per licensee in a timely fashion. To resolve this problem, the Board volunteered to become part of the Dept. of Accounting and General Services' (DAGS) pilot project to enable electronic transmittal of payroll deduction transactions information to us. This would have helped us to connect the transactions to teacher licensees to determine currency of their license fee payment. Unfortunately, DAGS' pilot project was stalled several years ago due to lack of funding and it has yet to move forward.

Consequently, our staff spends inordinate amounts of time researching whether a licensee's fee payments are current—time that we would prefer to spend on the evaluation of license applications. The proposed amendment in Section 2 of HB 183 HD1, Item (6) would enable the Board to determine the method of collecting fees. This may include credit card or electronic check payments, which are payment methods that would maximize our use of features available through our upcoming online system.

We respectfully point out that HB 183 HD1 **does not accurately reflect current law**. Item (16), according to current law, reads as follows and is followed by Items (b) and (c):

“(16) Adopting applicable rules and procedures.

(b) If, in accordance with chapter 92, the board determines, on a case-by-case basis, that extenuating circumstances exist to justify the suspension, the board may temporarily suspend its rules, or any portion thereof. The board shall establish, in accordance with chapter 91, procedures for the suspension of its rules. When determining whether to suspend its rules, the board shall also establish the length of time for which the suspension shall be in effect.

(c) The board, in accordance with chapter 92, may also amend licensing-related fees and set or amend other charges related to the performance of its duties. [L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 1997, c 195, §2; am L 2000, c 106, §§1, 4; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10 and §§12, 13 and c 314, §3; am L 2002, c 16, §19 and c 193, §4; am L 2003, c 3, §11; am L 2007, c 263, §2]”

In view of the above, the Board asks that the bill be corrected to accurately reflect current statutory language. Since passage of the §302A803 (b) and (c), the Board drafted rules for implementing it and we are awaiting approval of the rules from the Attorney General so we can take them to public hearing.

Item (17) in Section 2 relates to the Board’s authority to adopt, amend, repeal or suspend policies and standards. This language was recommended to us by the Attorney General’s office and the Board supports this change.

We also support the amendment contained in Section 3 of the bill because it ensures that the board’s authority to suspend its rules remains in place.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony In **Support** of HB183 HD1

DATE: 03-20-09 1:30 PM in conference room 225

TO: Committee on Education and Housing

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Russell Castagnaro

Title: General Manager

Company: Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC (HIC)

RE: Testimony In Support of SB183 HD1

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

As the Hawaii's Internet Portal Manager, we implement most of the eGovernment and eCommerce solutions for state and county partners. We began working with the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board in the fall of 2008 to facilitate online licensing of all HTSB licensees. This legislation will allow the portal to implement and deploy an online licensing system at no cost to the HTSB and with no General Fund monies. The first phase of the licensing system should be available in the spring 2009 with frequent incremental deployments of new licensing features over the following 18 months.

The portal strongly supports the HTSB's authority to accept and process electronic payments directly instead of being required to take payment via payroll deduction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Russell Castagnaro