

SB162

Date of Hearing: February 23, 2009

Committee: Education and Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 162, Performance Standards Review Commission

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to repeal the performance standards review commission.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports H.B. 180 as the Department continuously reviews the implementation and effectiveness of the performance standards to determine whether or not the standards should be modified. Since the creation of the Commission for Performance Standards in 1991, the Department has assessed its standards to ensure that the standards reflect the needs of students as well as meet the educational goals adopted by the Board of Education.

Since 1997, the Department has faithfully fulfilled this requirement and convened Performance Standards Review Commissions every four years as specified. In addition, the Commission's reports have consistently confirmed and reinforced the independent findings of the Department. For this reason, the efforts of the Performance Standards Review Commission are duplications to those of the Department.

The total spent by the Department for the 2006 Performance Standards Review Commission was approximately \$70,000. The expenditures included travel expenses (i.e., airfare, rental cars, mileage, and parking), per diem, meals and refreshments for the 11 commissioners attending the 12 full-day meetings, and the printing and distribution of the final report.

Given these times of fiscal austerity, the existing requirement places unnecessary financial and personnel resource burdens on the Department and reduces the resources available for direct support to the schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.