

**SB497**



HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER  
*Informing the Education Community*

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

February 2, 2009, 1:15 pm, Room 225

by  
Donald B. Young, Director  
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center

**SB 497: Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) opposes the creation of a advisory committee for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board as described in SB 497.

While HEPC has not seen or read the auditor's report referenced in the bill, there are several troublesome parts as written in SB497. First, while named an advisory committee, as drafted the bill grants oversight to the committee, which is much more than advisory. Second, the constituencies named as representatives on the advisory committee appear to have less or overlapping expertise relating to teacher licensure and professionalism than the constituency of the current HTSB. Why these specific representatives vs. others such as charter schools, virtual education, native Hawaiian education, etc.? Third, the establishment of this committee introduces an unnecessary and confounding layer of bureaucracy to the professional licensing of teachers. Fourth, the bill calls for the Advisory Committee to submit an annual report to the Legislature on HTSB operations. HTSB is already required to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB497.