

NDA LINGLE
GOVERNORLYNN HAMMONDS
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

RE: SB2346 RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 2:00 PM

DR. JONATHAN GILLENLINE, CHAIRPERSON
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Takumi, Chairman Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The members of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board support with amendments SB2346 Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, which would authorize the board to delegate certain duties to the executive director or other designee. In 2008, the Deputy Attorney General advised HTSB that it must approve all teacher licenses at their regular meeting once a month. This creates challenges for teachers as they apply for Department of Education employment, especially at the beginning of the academic year. Although a license effective date is determined by the date an applicant meets all licensing criteria, teachers cannot receive their printed license until after the board approves. For some teachers, this can be after DOE hiring deadlines.

The board would prefer to delegate authority to the executive director or other designee so that routine license applicants can be approved as they are completed, rather than having to wait for the board's next meeting. Teachers would receive their license as soon as they meet all criteria instead of having to wait for up to a month. The board would then ratify these license actions in the same way that other Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) licensing boards handle their approvals. Any adverse license action or condition may only be approved by the board.

However, we would like to make the following amendment to SB2346 in regard to §302A-803 (d), so delegation to the Executive Director is provided through voting action by the Board by a majority of its members. This language is consistent with the recommended language provided by the Working Group convened pursuant to Act 2, Special Session 2009:

To delegate authority, the concurrence of a majority of the members to which the board is entitled shall be necessary for any action taken by the board to be valid. The board shall conduct its meetings in accordance with chapters 91 and 92.

Lastly, the following bill on the hearing notice, SB2591, S.D.2, also contains the same subject matter as this bill and the HTSB prefers the language in SB 2591 S.D. 2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.