



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President

Karolyn Mossman
Vice President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Williams
Interim Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2567, S.D.1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 RELATING TO EDUCATION

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Takumi, ~~Chair Chang~~ and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association offers comments to this bill.

The HSTA supports the concept of statewide standards and assessments. However, we offer the following thoughts on this bill.

- We contend that the decisions regarding teaching material should be left to the board of education.
- Teachers are guaranteed academic freedom within the collective bargaining agreement. Teachers must adhere to the statewide standards but must use their professional judgment to determine the level and the complexity of the subject matter for their particular set of students and be able to use books and other materials accordingly.
- There must be flexibility for the schools to address the needs of their particular student populations.
- There must be flexibility within the schools to address the needs of the different learning types and levels of readiness among their students.
- The national common core standards for math and language arts are set to be adopted this March. The publishing company will take some time to develop and produce the teaching material required. We should prepare accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.