



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

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

Re: SB 2591

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 Hawaii Teacher Standards Board welcomes the opportunity to make changes to its policies and operations to better serve Hawaii's teachers and therefore, Hawaii's P-12 students. The Board is in support of the following changes proposed in SB2591:

- Requiring the board to include expenditure information in the annual report;
- Authorizing the board to delegate to the executive director or designee any of its powers and duties as it seems reasonable and proper;
- Requiring the board to review implementation of revised license fee collections and determine if fees shall be raised.

The Board has already made the following significant changes to meet its responsibilities.

- In August of 2009, HTSB moved the primary responsibility for conducting site and program reviews for teacher education programs in local IHEs to national NCATE review. The HTSB will act upon the recommendations of NCATE. This move will not only free HTSB staff of the time consuming task of organizing program reviews but will ensure that all of Hawaii's teacher education programs meet national and state standards. NCATE has already provided an orientation to all Hawaii SATEPs to implement the process.
- HTSB has met with the Department of Education to further clarify their respective powers, duties, responsibilities and relationships between the two agencies. However, this is an ongoing process and additional meetings will be required. A Memorandum of Agreement regarding the sharing of documents has been signed and is undergoing review with the Procurement Office. This means teachers will be required to submit documents relating to their teacher education program, testing and professional development only

one time. It will also reduce confusion among teachers going through the licensing process, enabling HTSB staff to process application files more quickly.

The Board is addressing additional changes in coming months to be able to meet all of its obligations:

- The Board acknowledges that National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification support would be best handled by a local Institution of Higher Education (IHE) or the DOE, as is done in other states. HTSB respectfully asks that this responsibility be transferred to the DOE or another support organization effective July 1, 2010 or as soon as possible.
- HTSB recognizes that the current renewal plan is out of compliance and does not address all ten Teacher Performance Standards. The Board recommended changes to statutory language to clarify the renewal process, already contained in SB2591, and the Board's Renewal Committee was convened to revisit the renewal process to ensure it meets statutory requirements. It will be submitting a final report to the Board at its March 25, 2010 meeting, and HTSB will deploy revisions to the process in April, 2010. A survey of other states in the Ninth Circuit and of states considered top contenders in the Race to the Top competition was utilized to incorporate best practices in license renewal into the revised process. Teachers will be required to verify that they meet all ten Teacher Performance Standards, meet Professional Fitness requirements, and have satisfactory teaching experience within the five years prior to their renewal in order to qualify for a renewed license.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.