

SB738

Date: 02/06/2009

Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education

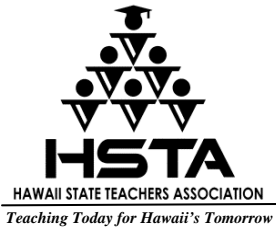
Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0738 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Establishes and funds a Hawaii beginning teacher induction center pilot program to assist in the development and retention of highly qualified teachers in the State's public schools.

Department's Position: The Department supports S.B. 0738 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

In 2005 the Legislature passed Act 159, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2005, Section 6. Act 159 required that the Department of Education establish a statewide induction program, but funding was not provided. The Department has developed statewide induction elements that should be part of all induction programs. Although complexes were required to develop and implement an induction program, many of the programs are still in an emergent phase. Hence, establishing the Hawaii beginning teacher induction center pilot program may be a duplication of efforts. Instead, we recommend providing the Department the funding of \$5,000,000 for full implementation and necessary resources to properly implement Act 159 which would allow it to standardize common assessments, standards, and evaluation tools to measure teacher retention, best practices, teacher effectiveness, and student achievement.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

RE: SB 738 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 6, 2008

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports the intent of SB 738**, which establishes and funds a Hawaii beginning teacher induction center (BTIC) pilot program to assist in the development and retention of highly qualified teachers in the state's public schools.

HSTA appreciates the Legislature's recognition that the State of Hawaii has a serious teacher shortage. This bill will help in the state's efforts to retain teachers and attract new highly qualified teachers. The establishment of a BITC will enable new teachers to function more effectively and maintain enthusiasm for their work through the assistance and support of highly trained mentors.

However, there is the matter of funding the program because of the current economic situation. HSTA believes it would be difficult to acquire the funds to support this program without cutting funds from other programs, which are critical to the delivery of essential education services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.