

**Date:** 02/28/2011

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1056(HSCR93) RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Amends section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to replace language regarding principal and vice-principal candidate qualifications that conflicts with the requirements of the Race to the Top grant.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education supports this bill. Nationwide, as well as in Hawaii, there continues to be concern over the potential shortage of highly qualified administrators as principals retire, resign or otherwise leave their positions. Currently, in the Honolulu District alone, over 50% or approximately 30 of their principals can retire. The current certification requirement states that an individual possess not less than five years of appropriate school level experience, of which at least three years shall have been as a teacher, is too restrictive and conflicts with the Race to the Top grant requirements. This bill includes additional language that will permit the Department to determine what would qualify as appropriate equivalent experience. This will allow the Department to consider other individuals who are experienced as leaders, but may not have three years of experience as a teacher, to potentially qualify for certification as a Principal or Vice Principal. If the current law is amended to replace the restrictive language regarding Principal and Vice Principal candidates qualifications, it would allow the Department to attract and retain an adequate supply of eligible highly qualified administrators for our public schools.



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**TESTIMONY ON HB 1056, RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS**

House Committee on Finance  
Hon. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Hon. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, February 28, 2011, 2:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Oshiro and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the Imua Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 60 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 1056, relating to the certification of principals and vice-principals.

Last August, Hawaii was named one of ten winners in the second round of the “Race to the Top” school reform grant competition, earning the state’s education system \$75 million in federal funds. As part of the competition, states were tasked with brainstorming alternate routes for administrative certification, as well as requisite implementation procedures. Since Hawaii already assigns accountability for certifying public school administrators to the state Department of Education—who is also responsible for federal grant application and oversight—it makes sense that the department would be tasked with establishing additional induction strategies for principals and vice-principals that will address administrative shortages in underserved and high-need schools, advance potential candidates with mainland licenses, and attract educational professionals from within the department who have exhibited exceptional leadership skills. Already, the State Legislature, in conjunction with educational leaders, has taken steps to augment the four current tracks for administrator certification by passing Act 34, in 2010, under which the DOE will work with an independent provider to train principals for underperforming schools, with a request for proposal being issued by the end of 2010-2011, followed by initial program enrollment in 2011-2012. Enacting HB 1056 will underscore Act 34’s emphasis on non-traditional candidates, bringing innovative, well-qualified candidates into the educational fold.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Legislative Director*  
Imua Alliance

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Kris Coffield

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