

Date: 01/31/2011

Committee: House Education
House Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1540 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Makes permanent statutory provisions that: (1) reduced the maximum employment period for teachers hired on an emergency basis by DOE from 4 years to 3 years; and (2) require those unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis prior to 7/1/08, to attain licensure within 4 years from the date of employment.

Department's Position: The Department of Education strongly supports H.B. 1540 because it makes permanent statutory provisions that (1) reduce the maximum employment period for teachers hired on an emergency basis by the DOE from 4 to 3 years; and (2) require those unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis prior to July 1, 2008 to attain licensure within 4 years from the date of employment. These provisions provides for better alignment with Hawaii teacher licensing requirements and the criteria for highly qualified teachers as prescribed by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act and Hawaii's Race to the Top efforts. This Bill would require teachers to be licensed in a shorter period of time to meet the highly qualified provisions faster. It is the Department's belief that the shorter period motivates teachers to complete requirements for highly qualified status and licensing.