

Date: 02/28/2011

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1540(HSCR94) 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 (hscr94) because it makes permanent statutory provisions that; (1) require unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis prior to July 1, 2008, to become licensed within four years of the date of employment; and (2) limits the maximum employment period for teachers hired on an emergency basis on or after July 1, 2008, to three years. These provisions provide 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.