

Personal Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Written Testimony
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SB 1553: RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education, I support the Senate Bill 1553.

Reducing the maximum employment period for teachers hired on an emergency basis from four to three years brings the Department of Education's practices in compliance with federal standards. At the same time, allowing teachers hired before 7/1/08 to attain licensure within four years ensures that those teachers are not penalized for changes in policy after the time of their hiring, which has the potential to negatively impact their employment. All education professionals should be held to high standards, and setting criteria for hiring and licensing emergency hires in line with current national standards would indicate such a commitment. All of Hawaii's educators, including emergency hires, should be held to a high standard, in order to provide Hawaii's keiki with a quality education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.