

SB1283

Date: 02/07/2011

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1283 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 are able to 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 who 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.