

SB1553

Date: 02/07/2011

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1553 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position: The Department of Education strongly supports S.B.1553 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 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.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Re: SB 1553: Relating to Education

Hearing Date: February 7, 2011

Terry Lynn Holck, Chairperson, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairperson Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board supports SB1553 to make permanent statutory provisions reducing the maximum employment period for emergency hire teachers from 4 years to 3 years, with the exception of those unlicensed teachers hired prior to 7/1/2008, who shall have 4 years from the date of employment to attain licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER
Informing the Education Community

Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 7, 2011, 1:15 pm, Room 225

by
Donald B. Young, Director
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center

SB 1553: Relating to Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

My name is Donald Young. I am providing testimony as Director of the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) in support of the intent of this bill.

We feel this measure strikes the appropriate balance between providing the Department of Education flexibility on the question of emergency hires while also ensuring the ongoing quality of the teacher corps through the expeditious licensure of those emergency hires. It also addresses an ongoing problem relating to the federal definition of highly qualified teachers under the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.