



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/16/2016
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2782, SD1 RELATING TO TEACHERS.

Purpose of Bill: Creates an incentive program for current educational assistants in hard-to-fill schools to attain teacher licensure if they commit to teaching for three years in a hard-to-fill school. Appropriates funds for the program and alternate teacher route contracts. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB2782, SD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. The Department continues to support professional development and career path opportunities for all employees, including educational assistants.

In addition, should the Committee move the bill forward, the Department recommends the following language be included in the bill:

Page 3, Line #9: "program and full licensure in the subject area, as required by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, within two years of being accepted into the program."

Page 3, Line #14: "consecutive years of teaching in a hard-to-fill subject area, at a school determined as hard-to-fill by the department."

The Department also supports the intent of Page 4, Section 4 would request the language to Line #10 be revised to "alternate teacher route programs."

Finally, based on experience with previous programs, we believe there is no need to promulgate the Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2782, SD1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: **SB 2782 SD1 Relating to Teachers**
DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2016
TIME: 2:00 PM
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

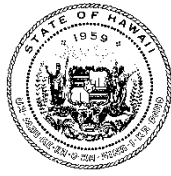
Testimony in support of SB 2782 SD1

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2782 SD1, which would assist educational assistants in obtaining full certification as public school teachers. Hawaii’s public charter schools—particularly the nine charter schools that are designated as hard-to-fill—confront teacher “pipeline” challenges as great, if not greater, than those faced by Department of Education schools.

We request that the bill be amended to make educational assistants who are serving in public charter schools eligible for the program as well. This is an issue of fundamental fairness to children attending charter schools and to charter schools that must be competitive as to recruiting and retaining employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: Lynn Hammonds, Executive Director, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 309

TITLE OF BILL: SB2782, SD1 RELATING TO TEACHERS

PURPOSE OF BILL: Creates an incentive program for current educational assistants in hard-to-fill schools to attain teacher licensure if they commit to teaching for three years in a hard-to-fill school. Appropriates funds for the program and alternative teacher route contracts.

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Members of the House Committee on Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) **strongly supports** SB2782, SD1 so that Hawaii educational assistants in hard-to-fill schools may obtain their bachelor's degree and teacher licensure to become teachers of record. With the critical teacher shortage crisis and challenges not only in attracting individuals but retaining them in hard-to-fill areas this bill is a much needed step in working toward a long term solution.

Many educational assistants have developed skills in working with students over many years, know their schools and have a strong desire to stay in their home communities. With the opportunity to become licensed teachers they will be able to help meet the need in these schools. This Act also provides support for those who hold a bachelor's degree in a field other than education yet wish to become teachers. The HTSB is currently working diligently to develop an alternative pathway to licensure for such teachers and also strongly supports this part of the bill.

We respectfully ask that Hawaii Charter School Educational Assistants also be included so that all Hawaii public school children may benefit. The HTSB is able and ready to administer tuition reimbursement to individuals meeting criteria for this program, including adoption of rules, should it be challenging to implement this reimbursement across both the Department of Education and Hawaii Charter Schools.

Thank you for your support of education in offering this bill and for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

by
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and
Donald B. Young
Dean and Professor
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

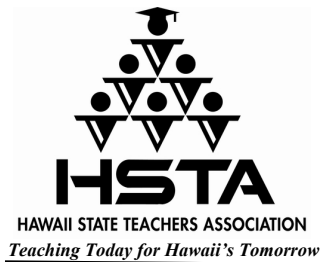
SB 2782 SD1 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2782 SD1.

The College of Education (COE) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports SB 2782 SD1 that proposes establishing the educational assistant certification incentive program. Under the program educational assistants who hold associate degrees would be reimbursed for the cost of completing a state approved teacher license preparation program. In return the newly licensed teachers will return to continue to serve in schools determined by the department as hard-to-fill.

The College of Education already has existing articulation agreements with the relevant community colleges by which education assistants who complete their associates degree can directly enter elementary and secondary programs resulting in a bachelor's degree and recommendation to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board for licensure upon completing their course of study. A tuition reimbursement incentive program will enable highly effective education assistants an affordable pathway to becoming fully licensed teachers while addressing a persistent employment problem in the education workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2782 SD1 - RELATING TO TEACHERS.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports** SB 2782, SD1, relating to teachers, **with suggested amendments**.

Hawai'i faces a five-year teacher turnover rate of approximately 50 percent, owing to our state's exorbitant cost of living and the deprofessionalization of classroom instruction. Educational Assistants (EAs) are the perfect candidates for teacher licensure, as they provide supportive, student-centered assistance to educators. This bill would provide financial support for tuition costs to EAs who have already obtained their Associate of Arts Degree (AA), worked in a hard-to-fill area for at least two years, and been recommended by their school principal. In order to receive support, according to the proposal, EAs must remain teachers for three consecutive years after receiving their teaching degrees, ensuring that assistance provided by the state facilitates student learning growth.

That said, we are unclear about whether or not the program envisioned in this measure includes educational assistants working at charter schools. We urge lawmakers to amend this measure, prior to final passage, to clarify that public charter school EAs working in hard-to-fill areas will qualify for the incentive program, too.

To lessen Hawai'i's teacher turnover crisis, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

March 16, 2016

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB2782 SD1 on teacher incentives.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition understands that teacher shortages are a critical issue in Hawaii and providing these alternative incentives for teacher certification is a way to address these shortages. We have heard of instances of terrific educational assistants who want to be certified but do not have a path; this bill helps create a way for them to progress in their careers and status. Finally, supporting alternative teacher training routes makes it possible for more certified teachers to enter the system, which benefits our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawai'i Afterschool Network
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 16, 2016

S.B. 2782, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports S.B. 2782, S.D. 1 which establishes the educational assistant certification incentive program to enable educational assistants working in hard-to-fill schools to attain teacher certification and appropriates necessary funds for fiscal year 2016-2017.

The HGEA also encourages the inclusion of charter school educational assistants who work in schools with similar high teacher turnover or hard-to-fill circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2782, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director