



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

Date: 02/26/2016
Time: 09:40 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2782 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB2782 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 Section 4 of the bill, provided the appropriation does not adversely impact or replace the Department's budget priorities and requests. In addition, the Department respectfully requests amendment of the language on Page 4, Line 10 so that the appropriation, if granted, would be designated for "alternate teacher route programs" rather than "alternate teacher route contracts."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2782.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:40 a.m.

by

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and

Donald B. Young, Dean and Professor
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2782 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2782.

The College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports SB 2782 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: yvonne.lau@spcsc.hawaii.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2782 on Feb 26, 2016 09:40AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:07:48 PM

SB2782

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

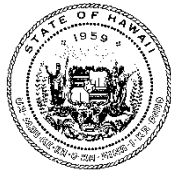
Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2016 09:40AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Lau	Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

DATE: Friday, February 26, 2016

TIME: 9:40 AM

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 211

TITLE OF BILL: SB2782 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 Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) **strongly supports** SB2782 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 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 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.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

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February 26, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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to the military*

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Ms. Annette Cooper

Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
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Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2782 - Relating to Teachers

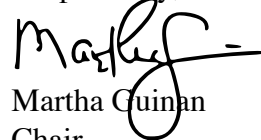
Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** SB 2782 that creates an incentive program for current educational assistants in hard-to-fill schools to attain teacher licensure.

SEAC has been very concerned about the chronic shortage of special education personnel to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Given that many educational assistant positions are assigned to serve special education students, we are hopeful that this incentive program can yield additional licensed special education teachers with pre-service training from a state approved teacher education program and the interest in serving this student population.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,



Martha Guinan
Chair