



LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe  
President  
Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President  
Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

RE: S.B. 842 - RELATING TO TEACHERS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chair Breene Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly supports the intent of S.B. 842**, relating to teachers. HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. HSTA is the state affiliate, of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association.

National Board Certification has long been recognized as the gold standard of licensure for the teaching profession. The state of Hawai'i has established a laudable history of developing a strong National Board Certified Teaching (NBCT) corps. Both through the financial support provided for NBCT candidates, and through the NBCT bonuses that are available for all public school teachers who are Nationally Board Certified, the state is clear about making a strong investment for the benefit of Hawai'i's public school students.

The state has also followed the research related to NBCTs and their positive impact on student learning by establishing an additional bonus for work in schools that are hard to staff, underperforming, and/or under-resourced in some way. This second bonus had been available to all NBCTs who worked in schools that were not meeting the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks. Hawai'i's NBCTs have worked in good faith in schools throughout the state that were not making AYP. In return, they were earning the bonus related to that good work.

Recently, Hawai'i began implementing a different set of benchmarks under its STRIVE HI program. As the language of NCLB and AYP no longer matched the new benchmarks, the state has found that it has no legal vehicle to continue paying the previously mentioned bonus. This bill would correct that. It is clear that this legislative body wants to continue supporting Hawai'i's NBCT's work in our high need schools.

We believe that SB 842 provides both the immediate fix and the long term solution to ensuring that our fine teachers are able to continue their good work with the support of the state of Hawai'i. The language in this bill will remain consistent even when Federal Legislation does not.

While this language will effectively correct the situation for many of the NBCTs who were in service to schools before the language change, there will still be NBCTs, who will no longer fall within the language of the new benchmarks. We ask, in the spirit of honoring the commitment both the state and the NBCTs made regarding schools in need, that a grandfather clause be included to compensate these individuals for the life of their license or their departure from the school in which they are teaching, whichever comes first.

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13, 500 public and public charter school teachers, well over 500 (and growing) of which are Nationally Board Certified Teachers, the Hawai'i State Teachers' Association is in **strongly supporting the intent of S.B. 842.**

**LATE**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 9, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 8:56:07 AM

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**SB842**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for EDU on Feb 9, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo Legislators for your time and consideration. I support this bill. Our teachers are some of the most important people in our children's lives and deserve support.

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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