



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. 847 - 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) **supports the intent of S.B. 847**, 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 **supports the intent of S.B. 847.**

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Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

February 9, 2014

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB847, which authorizes an additional per year bonus for teachers who maintain current board certification and teach at schools in a focus, priority or superintendent's zone under the National Board Certification Incentive Program.

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 quality is considered to be one of the most influential factors in student achievement. National board certification is rigorous and allows teachers to analyze and improve their practice. We believe it is important to continue to reward teachers who voluntarily undergo this process. The bill specifies that an additional bonus be awarded to national board certified teachers at schools in a focus, priority or superintendent's zone. We support this incentive as national board certified teachers can add value to these schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our 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
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*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
*Kaho'omiki
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.*