

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**

650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

PERSON TESTIFYING: Lynn Hammonds for HTSB

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

TIME: 2:45 pm

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 229

TITLE OF BILL: HB492, HD2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

PURPOSE OF BILL: Appropriates moneys from the general fund for two specialist II positions within the Hawaii teacher standards board.

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee on Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) thanks the Senate Committee on Education for hearing HB492, HD2, and **strongly supports** this bill to general fund Hawaii Teacher Standards Board's two specialists. This bill, a companion to SB195, concerns positions that were originally created under the general fund, and are currently established, permanent, filled positions. The two individuals in these positions support the day to day licensing functions of the HTSB, working directly with over 12,000 teacher applicants and licensees in all Hawaii public schools. Their main function is managing the workflow for teacher licensing, but they also lend support to preservice preparation, US Department of Education Title 2 reporting, and the review of licensing standards and licensure testing. HTSB has a strong team that is able to meet these needs, and we hope to be able to continue to offer capable, efficient support to teachers through the work of these two specialists.

HTSB's special fund is based solely on teacher licensing fees, and HTSB assumed payment of these two specialist positions and the supporting clerical positions in FY2012. Over the past four fiscal years, since fully transitioning all personnel and operating expenses from the general to the HTSB special fund, the increase in salary and benefits for personnel costs have exceeded HTSB's special fund revenue from the teacher licensing fees of \$48 per licensee. In order to offset this trend, HTSB has reduced its staff from thirteen full time employees to a current count of five full time and two half time

individuals, reduced office space by half, as well as other cost cutting measures. We feel that this is the minimum staff possible to effectively support all functions of the HTSB.

We humbly thank you again for hearing this bill, and ask for the Senate Education Committee's continued support for our work, to help ensure that Hawaii teachers have the appropriate training, knowledge, skills and dispositions to teach our children.

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  
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FOR: HB492 HD2 Relating to Hawaii Teachers Standards Board  
DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
TIME: 2:45 P.M.  
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 229  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

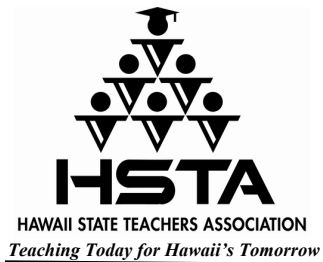
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Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **support of HB 492 HD2**, which appropriates general fund moneys for two Specialist II positions within the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

The HTSB serves a crucial role in public education in the State of Hawaii. They are responsible for teacher licensing, which includes renewing, revoking, suspending, and reinstating licenses. They also monitor the professional fitness of teachers and support teacher quality. The moneys for the two Specialist II positions funded by this bill will help the board realize their vision to have a highly esteemed public education system with rigorous professional teacher standards that foster student success. The HTSB's work, in turn, assists the Commission in its oversight of all public charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: HB 492, HD 2 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS  
BOARD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 492, HD 2**, relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

In 1995, the State Legislature created the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to set licensing standards for Hawai'i public school teachers. In 2002, the Legislature transferred responsibility for teacher licensing and State Approval of Teacher Education to HTSB. According to its mission statement, the board “envisions a highly esteemed public education system with rigorous professional teacher standards that foster student success” and aims to “collaboratively set high teacher licensing and credentialing standards” that:

- provide every child with qualified teachers;
- promote professionalism and teaching excellence;
- build public confidence in the teaching profession; and
- provide more accountability to the public.

Yet, HTSB has faced staffing cuts in recent years that have hampered its efforts. In 2012, HTSB relinquished all general funds, leaving personnel specialist II and educational specialist II positions to be funded through special fund appropriations. Since that time, the board has been forced to further reduce staff and office space, adversely impacting its ability to advance teacher quality.

To assist HTSB in overseeing teacher standards, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 2:45 p.m.

By  
Donald Young  
Dean, College of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 492 HD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Young, and I serve as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Today I am pleased to submit testimony in support of HB 492 HD2.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) serves a vital function in our state being responsible for teacher licensing and monitoring, reviewing licensing standards and license testing, monitoring the accreditation of teacher preparation programs, reporting to the U.S. Department of Education, etc. In addition, HTSB has been responsive to necessary changes and innovations in teacher preparation and licensing, working collaboratively with all programs in Hawai'i that prepare educators.

The increased workload and the ability to continue to be responsive to needs in the field present HTSB with financial challenges. HB 492 HD2 seeks to shift the costs of two positions to the general fund. Such a shift will enable HTSB to remain solvent without raising licensing fees. As personnel costs have continued to rise, HTSB has adjusted by reducing the number of employees to the minimum they now have. Without additional financial support further cuts will be necessary threatening to reduce the vital services HTSB provides.

I therefore urge the committee to support HB 492 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 8:33 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** stevenakasato@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB492 on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM\*

**HB492**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Nakasato	Individual	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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**HB492**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beth Pateman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB492, which appropriates moneys from the general fund for two specialist II positions within the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

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**HB492**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roxane Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB492**

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB492**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Ebersole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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