



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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**LATE**

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 6, 2017

H.B. 501, H.D. 1, S.D. 1- RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports of H.B. 501, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 which seeks to expand Chapter 302A-706, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to the Teacher National Board Certification Incentive Program by including public school psychologists who have achieved national board certification, with a suggested amendment.

The Teacher National Board Certification Incentive Program recognizes and supports exemplary teaching practice and provides monetary incentives. We respectfully request the Committee amendment H.B. 501, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 to include all other bargaining unit employees, inclusive of School Behavioral Health Specialists who have achieved national board certification and are employed by or assigned to provide services to students at the schools covered under this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 501, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 and the proposed amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

4/6/17

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**LATE**

## **HB501**

I am writing this testimony in support of a national certification incentive program to support exemplary educational practice by supporting Hawaii's public school teachers, school psychologists, behavioral health specialists, and school counselors who have achieved national certification establishing licensure and registration requirements. All of the above stated professionals are a critical part of school teams; and one of the goals of school psychologists is to remove or reduce barriers to learning and support quality learning.

Meeting national certification practices ensures that a high quality standard of education and training has been met. It also ensures professionals continue to improve their skill set and stay up to date with best practices by engaging in continuous professional development. The national credentialing process for school psychologists is quite rigorous and reviewed every three years and involves obtaining a minimum of 75 hours of continuing professional development, with at least 10 of those hours provided by the National Association of School Psychologists or American Psychological Association. Therefore, obtaining and maintaining national certification ensures exemplary teaching practices.

The salaries for these professionals are low in comparison to other states despite the high cost of living in the state of Hawaii; this seems to make it difficult to retain competent professionals. Establishing a national certification incentive program will offset some of these difficulties, and likely help to retain qualified professionals. This is crucial given the staffing deficits the state currently has in employing school psychologists. As a professional currently possessing a National School Psychology certification (NCSP) credential, I humbly request your support in passing this bill to help retain competent professionals and for the best interests of our youth.

Erin Briley, NCSP

School Psychologist

Hawaii Association of School Psychologists Treasurer