



SB2779
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 13, 2018

2:00 PM

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2779, which would create a new seat on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board for the Native Hawaiian Education Council's chairperson or their designee, as well as a non-voting public university student teacher.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board has various significant duties, including having full responsibility for establishing teacher, school counselor, and school librarian licensing standards, and issuing licenses to those who meet the criteria for these standards. The Board issues three tiers of licenses and two kinds of special permits; approves Hawai'i based state approved teacher, counselor, and librarian education programs; validates and adopts licensure tests; and participates in efforts related to teacher quality, among other important duties.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (Council), established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act, has a long, community-based history and extensive experience in numerous aspects of education, including in Hawaiian language medium education, Hawaiian language immersion education, public charter school education, early learning, general K-12 education, teacher education and preparation, and professional development, among other areas. Adding the Council's chairperson or their designee to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board will bring valuable and practical perspectives to the Board in carrying out its various important responsibilities. Significantly, having Council representation on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board will enable the Board to further the constitutional mandate that "[t]he State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools."¹

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB2779. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹HAW. CONST. art. X, § 4 available at <http://lrbhawaii.org/con/conart10.html>.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committees on Education; Higher Education; and Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 13, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 224

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **SB 2779, Relating to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**

E nā Luna Ho'omalū Kidani, Kahele, a me Shimabukuro, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kahele, Kim, a me Galuteria, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia mau Kōmike, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2779, relating to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, which increases the membership on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to include a member of the Native Hawaiian Education Council and a non-voting public university student teacher. This measure will also clarify that a permit is required for non-licensed teachers serving in public schools.

We believe that the inclusion of a representative from the Native Hawaiian Education Council will help to provide increased Native Hawaiian education knowledge, perspective and acumen to the board. This is an important and highly inclusive step that will help inform discussion at the board level on past, current, and future Native Hawaiian education issues.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

SB-2779

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 4:08:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalewa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

I strongly support SB2779 to Increase membership on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to include a member of the Native Hawaiian Education Council and a non-voting public university student teacher.

Mahalo,

Kā• lewa