



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

March 12, 2020

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2262 SD1, RELATING TO
THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**

**SUBMITTED BY LYNN HAMMONDS FOR
THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and Members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) **strongly supports** SB 2262 SD1 to amend the powers and duties of the HTSB to authorize the issuance of voluntary certificates for teachers at independent schools. Historically, independent schoolteachers were eligible for certificates issued by the Hawaii Department of Education, but when the HTSB was established authority to issue certificates was not transferred and the practice was discontinued.

According to the most recent report from the United States Department of Education on non-public schools, twenty-nine states offer licenses or certificates to independent schoolteachers. Such a certificate could signify that a teacher meets desirable education, experience, and professional fitness requirements as established by the HTSB. These requirements would also allow verification with the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Clearinghouse that the teacher has not had an adverse action taken on a teaching license from another jurisdiction.

If approved, development of requirements will be established with input from Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) member schools, and attaining certification will be voluntary for independent schoolteachers. There will be no fee for obtaining this certificate.

The HTSB thanks the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education for hearing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TO: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Philip J. Bossert, Executive Director
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

RE: SB 2262 SD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
In Support

DATE: Thursday, March 12, 2020
2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) supports SB 2262 SD1.

HAIS is a membership organization that currently represents 102 of Hawaii's independent K-12 schools; and, in collaboration with the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) accredits 46 of those 102 institutions. The other 56 HAIS member institutions are either licensed by HAIS's subsidiary organization, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS) but choose not to be accredited by HAIS/WASC, or they are accredited by some other nationally recognized educational accrediting body, such as those representing Catholic schools, Montessori schools, Christian schools, etc. In addition, there are an additional 14 non-member private K-12 schools that are currently licensed by HCPS and 51 private preschools that are licensed by the Department of Human Services and most of which are also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Approximately 38,000 children attend these 167 private schools and are educated in learning environments facilitated by just under 3,000 private school teachers. Almost all of these educators hold at least a bachelor's degree and, in many cases, hold a master's degree, PhD or EdD. Many of these teachers completed a standard licensure program as part of their undergraduate or graduate education; however, most private schools do not require that their faculty be "licensed" – just that they have completed a degree in the field of study in which they plan to teach.

H AIS supports the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board’s (HTSB) efforts to create a new “certificate” category for private school educators – whether licensed or not – that attests to the basic qualifications of these persons as educators. This certification will be entirely voluntary on the part of the educator unless some private schools decide to require such certification as a condition of employment. Such certification may help to streamline the hiring process for regularly-employed faculty as well as expedite the contracting of substitute teachers for most private schools. Such certification also results in the teacher being entered into the HTSB database and provides a higher level of criminal and professional history background checks than the basic FBI finger printing checks provide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and we look forward to working with you as this important measure moves through the legislative process.