

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

RE: SB 809, SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

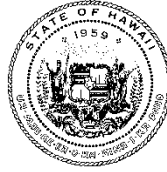
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 809, SD1**, relating to education.

Since 2012, the HTSB tried to operate solely on license fees, until 2019 when HTSB was fully funded by the state through legislation. This funding allowed HTSB to fully fund and expand their programs and services to teachers. However, now due to severe budget cuts, HTSB may have to revert back to charging a license/permit fee to new teachers who are not tenured yet. Not having to pay this licensing fee has helped our new teachers who were not currently covered under the DOE tenured teacher fee payment provided through our collective bargaining agreement. Not funding HTSB fully may prevent them from providing their vital support for our teachers pursuing National Board Certification as well as offer other training statewide to teachers as well as “Grow Your Own” licensure options and offer other support.

All of these supports help our teachers, thus the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **support** this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

PERSON TESTIFYING: Lynn Hammonds, HTSB Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

REGARDING: SB 809 SD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

PURPOSE: Appropriates funds to public school positions and the Hawaii teacher standards board.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Education Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HSTB) **strongly supports SB 809**, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Historically, the HTSB has served the State as its licensing board for Hawaii teachers, school counselors, and school librarians since 2003, when it assumed responsibility for approval of educator preparation programs, licensure, and continuing professional development for licensed teachers. A teaching license signifies that individuals have completed a professional preparation program, meet basic skills and content knowledge standards, supports mobility of teachers coming to Hawaii, and protects students by verifying individuals have not been sanctioned for serious misconduct in other jurisdictions.

In 2012, HTSB became dependent solely on its Special Fund generated by license fees, but negotiated salary, fringe benefits, and operational costs outpaced income received from the \$54 annual license fee paid by each public school teacher.

By 2019, to ensure it stayed within a balanced budget, HTSB had taken drastic steps:

- Reducing staff from 13 to 8: current staff are an Executive Director, four Licensing Specialists, two office assistants, and one secretary. Our eight staff serve Hawaii's 12,000 plus public school teachers as they apply for licenses, add new teaching fields, and renew their licenses or permits.
- Reducing our office space in Dole Cannery to one-fourth of its original size, as state owned office space has not been available to us.

- Eliminated most statewide professional development training.

Despite these limitations, the HTSB continued to adopt reforms that encourage interested individuals to become licensed teachers, including:

- Full licensure reciprocity with all other states, Department of Defense schools, and the organized territories, as well as for teachers professionally prepared in non-US countries.
- Working with the Department of Education (DOE) and State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center to develop special permits and licenses to support individuals who want to teach in the areas of CTE, Computer, and STEM.
- Development of a special Hawaiian Permit, to allow fluent native speakers to work in classrooms as they work toward full licensure.
- Adoption of the national Model Code of Ethics for Educators, the first code of its type for the profession.

During the 2019 Legislature, the Senate, House, and Governor supported HTSB's transition to the general fund in Act 116. It was truly a life-saver for HTSB. Because of that transition, we were able to do the following:

- No licensed teachers or emergency hires currently pay an annual fee for their license or permit. This is not only an incentive for recruiting and retaining new teachers but also conveys the belief that their professional preparation and expertise are honored and valued by the state.
- This funding allows new DOE and charter school teachers to be on equal footing with tenured Department of Education (DOE) teachers. Under a previously negotiated contract between the DOE and the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA), only tenured DOE teachers benefited from the DOE's payment of the annual license fee, thus leaving out those teachers at the lower end of the salary schedule.
- Because of Act 116, the DOE also no longer has to pay approximately \$500,000 annually in license fees for its tenured teachers.
- HTSB has been able to offer statewide professional development for teachers, including candidate support for National Board certification and training in the Model Code of Ethics for Educators.
- HTSB supported and participated in the national accreditation of all fifteen Hawaii Educator Preparation Programs.
- HTSB has been able to make a seamless transition to meet the licensing needs of teachers due to its robust online licensure system. Staff average a turnaround time of two days on review of applications submitted via the online system. Customer service satisfaction of "Very Satisfied" has risen from 70% before COVID to a current rate of 80% because HTSB was prepared with the necessary equipment and trained to meet the needs of applicants and licensees using multiple formats, including remote technology.

HTSB humbly asks you to continue your support for inclusion of its funding for the next biennium.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for the opportunity to testify.

SB-809-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:06:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this measure for funding. Support our teachers!

LATE

SB-809-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:43:52 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I support the fully funding the HTSB because if this funding is cut teachers will once again have to pay in order to renew our licenses and funding the standards board will fall on educators shoulders once again. There are ways to pay for this and we need to ask the wealthy and well connected to support public education.

Mahalo,
Fitz