



STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

PERSON TESTIFYING: Felicia Villalobos, Licensing Specialist, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standard Board

DATE: February 23, 2024

TIME: 1:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 308 and Video Conference

TITLE OF BILL: HB2661, HD1 RELATING TO TEACHERS, Education; Teachers; Interstate Compact

PURPOSE OF BILL: Enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact to reduce barriers to teacher license portability and employment.

POSITION: Comments

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee;

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) offers comments on HB2661, HD1, relating to teachers.

The HTSB envisions a highly esteemed Hawaii public education system with rigorous professional teacher standards that foster student success and provide every child in Hawaii with qualified teachers.

The HTSB approves the intent and purpose of this bill but continues to seek further clarification, discussion, and additional insight on how to make the language in the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) better align with the current HTSB licensing requirements, as put forth in said Rules and/or policies.

- No additional documents can be required to determine if the licensure criteria are equivalent to a Hawaii license (e.g., is a Standard license from another state/jurisdiction equivalent to a Hawaii Standard License?).
- The current ITMC language does not identify that the bachelor's degree is awarded from an accredited institution.
- Currently, requirements that define a state-approved program for teacher licensure differ from state-to-state in both rigor and quality.
- Currently, HTSB licenses thousands of teachers who are not teaching in Hawaii. This is not addressing Hawaii's teacher shortage.
- HTSB does not have the authority to complete background checks at licensure.
- ITMC still has not identified any associated cost(s). Some states told us at a recent conference that they have lost money and positions already due to this compact, and that concerns us.

Currently, HTSB's processing time for applications is less than 6 weeks and HTSB honors reciprocity with most states and jurisdictions. The Board believes that this bill has merit which warrants further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/23/2024

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2661, HD1 RELATING TO TEACHERS.

Purpose of Bill: Enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact to reduce barriers to teacher license portability and employment. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2661 HD1. The portability of a teaching license from one state to another could expand the employment opportunities for job-seekers wanting to be teachers. This compact could provide more transparency and minimize the time for job seekers to obtain a Hawaii teaching license.

If the bill is approved, the Department of Education defers to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board regarding its proper implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2661 HD1.

**TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE
HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) WITH
COMMENTS ON HB 2661**

Hearing Date: Friday, February 23, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

My name is Evan Oue and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) providing COMMENTS to HB 2661 HD1, Relating to an Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC).

HAJ appreciates the previous committee's amendment to delete language that would have provided immunity to members, officers, the executive director, employees, and representatives of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission from suit and liability for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability for certain acts conducted within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities.

Primarily, our concern was that the bill grants overbroad immunity to officers or employees rendering aid pursuant to the ITMC for **negligent acts**. The exceptions to immunity only apply to **intentional or willful or wanton misconduct while omitting negligent acts** that could harm our residents. While we support intergovernmental cooperation for teachers, it is not necessary to exempt our officers of the ITMC from negligent conduct.

We respectfully ask the committee to keep the immunity from tort liability or civil liability language out of the measure as it is overly broad and puts Hawaii residents at risk for injuries that could occur. Thank you for allowing us to testify regarding this measure. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or desire additional information.