

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: 01/30/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1649 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program. Appropriates funds for the incentive program.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides the following comments on HB 1649 which establishes a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program and appropriates funds.

The Department appreciates that HB 1649 assists our goal of incentivizing the recruitment and retention of school psychologists who provide critical school psychology services to students in need.

The Department does want to point out that employee compensation is more appropriately the subject of collective bargaining. However, if the proposed bill were to be enacted, the Department would require additional funding to cover the annual costs for this incentive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on HB 1649.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 30, 2024

H.B. 1649— RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1649 which appropriates funds to establish a school psychologist national certification incentive program.

There are currently less than 60 school psychologists servicing 180,000 students in nearly 300 public schools and charter schools statewide. At a vacancy rate of over 40% this means each psychologist services six times more students than what is recommended by the National Association of School Psychologists. Not only would this program recognize and support those who are already nationally certified, but it would incentivize the many wishing to be certified who find it financially unattainable. Hawaii does not have local graduate programs for school psychologists so this would make Hawaii more competitive with other states who already offer this incentive program.

While this will certainly aid in the recruitment and retention of school psychologists, the program will also help the Hawaii Department of Education to mitigate learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. School psychologists are critical to supporting the efforts to prioritize students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1649.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

4340 East West Highway, Suite 402, Bethesda, MD 20814

PHONE: 301-657-0270

FAX: 301-657-0275

January 29, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), I write in support of HB1649, which would establish a financial incentive program in the state of Hawai'i for school psychologists who obtain and maintain the Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential (NCSP). The NCSP is administered by the National School Psychology Certification Board and recognizes school psychologists who meet rigorous national standards for graduate preparation and continuing professional development in alignment with NASP professional standards. The NCSP is comparable to, and in many respects more rigorous, than national certification programs for teachers, school counselors, and other educators.

There are numerous benefits to establishing the proposed incentive program outlined in HB54/SB675. First and foremost, it will improve access to high quality and comprehensive school psychological services for children and their families. by helping address the critical shortages of school psychologists in the state. Offering financial incentives for those with an active and valid NCSP will enhance efforts to recruit and retain these highly qualified professionals in Hawai'i, particularly in communities with the greatest need. This legislation also promotes and rewards those who maintain the highest levels of ethical and professional practice, ensuring that all children and youth have access to high quality and evidence-based interventions to support their academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, and social and emotional development.

This legislation, coupled with HB1648/SB958, will increase access to comprehensive school psychological services provided by properly trained and highly qualified school psychologists. NASP fully supports both of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Minke, PhD, NCSP
Executive Director



Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

January 30, 2024

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

We support HB 1649, which establishes a school psychologist national certification incentive program.

HE'E Coalition believes that social-emotional learning (SEL) is essential for the teaching and learning of our students. Qualified school psychologists help provide critical SEL supports. Just as teachers have a national certification incentive program, so should our school psychologists. There should be parity among all educators.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director



Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21

Alliance for Place Based Learning

American Civil Liberties Union

Atherton YMCA

Education Institute of Hawai'i

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawai'i

*HawaiiKidsCAN

*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and
Economic Justice

*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Special Education Provider Alliance

*Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

* Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member
organizations vote on action items while
individual and non-voting participants may
collaborate on all efforts within the*



January 30, 2024
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB1649, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair Woodson and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports HB1649 in amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

The Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) is comparable to, or more rigorous than, many national certifications across other school professionals, such as teachers, school counselors, speech and language pathologists, and occupational therapists. The credential promotes excellence in the field of school psychology through rigorous standards of graduate preparation, ethical practice, and competency. Additionally, nationally certified school psychologists must engage in activities designed to maintain, expand, and extend their professional training and skills. Recertification is required every 3 years, with no less than 75 hours of continuing professional development activities.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and encouraging eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

In closing, The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists appreciates this opportunity to testify on HB1649. We are dedicated to maintain, expand, and extend the profession of school psychology, and support the State's efforts to recruit and retain high quality educators. We are available to provide additional information at the Legislature's request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Baunach, NCSP
NASP Delegate-Hawaii & HASP Legislative Co-Chair
Email: hasp808@gmail.com

HB-1649

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:09:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacob Wiencek | Hawaii Young Republicans | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Hawaii Young Republicans supports this crucial bill, which we believe will provide increased resources and expertise to young people in schools. The last several years have been particularly stressful on young people and creating a program to help develop mental health professionals who can provide support in school is crucial. We urge the committee to support this legislation!

Honorable Members of the Legislative Body,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the amendment of Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program and the appropriation of funds to support this initiative. As an advocate for education and mental health, and as a School Psychologist employed by the DOE, I believe that investing in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists is essential for promoting the well-being and academic success of our students.

The establishment of a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program represents a proactive and strategic approach to addressing the critical shortage of qualified professionals in our schools. School psychologists play a vital role in supporting the social, emotional, and academic development of students, particularly those facing challenges such as learning disabilities, behavioral issues, and mental health disorders. By incentivizing national certification and providing financial support to aspiring and practicing school psychologists, this program will help attract talented individuals to the field and encourage current practitioners to pursue advanced training and certification.

There are approximately 61 School Psychologists working in the State. Compared with the reported student population of 167,649, the average School Psychologist in Hawai'i has a caseload of 2,748. This is more than five times the nationally recommended ratio of one School Psychologist to every 500 students. This exorbitantly high ratio, concomitant with a lack of competitive wages and shortage differentials, negatively impacts the ability of the DOE to recruit and retain highly qualified School Psychologists.

In addition to addressing the immediate workforce challenges, the establishment of a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program has the potential to yield long-term benefits for our education system and society as a whole. Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of school psychologists on student achievement, school climate, and overall well-being. By increasing the number of certified professionals in our schools, we can enhance the quality of services provided to students, reduce disparities in access to mental health support, and ultimately improve educational outcomes for all.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the expansion of Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program and the appropriation of funds to support this important initiative. By investing in the recruitment and retention of qualified professionals, we can create a more inclusive, supportive, and equitable learning environment for students across our state. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alec Marentic, Ed.S., NCSP

HASP, Legislative Chair

HB-1649

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:51:24 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kari Arneson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

HB1649, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program
Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support HB1649 to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in Hawai'i now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts. Hawai'i is currently experiencing significant shortages of School Psychologists in the State. This additional bonus would make School Psychologist wages competitive with other States, which will help address recruitment and retention challenges. Recruiting and retaining highly certified School Psychologists will ensure our keiki receive the mental and behavioral health services they need. An NCSP bonus would provide incentive to recruit and retain highly qualified school psychologists.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Arneson

HB-1649

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:47:57 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Kayla Doherty | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

I earnestly support HB-1649. I believe attracting qualified school psychologists should be a priority for HIDOE and that addressing current shortages through additional funding as part of an incentive program is necessary. I'm a Hawai'i Island resident who has been following this and related bills for several years and I urge this Committee to consider the many hats school psychologists wear in supporting our keiki and caring for our communities: they provide crisis-intervention; they train teachers and support staff; and they assess students and help implement academic interventions, among *many* other duties. There are many professions which overlap and can do *some* of this (i.e. teachers assess students & administrators provide training & clinical psychologists respond to crises, to name a few), but school psychologists are thoroughly trained to excel in *all* of this. Let's compensate them fairly for their roles as education specialists.

Testimony Support Regarding HB1649
National Certification Incentive Program
January 29, 2024

Aloha,

I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), currently working within the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE). I am writing in support of Hawai'i State Legislative Bill HB54 to amend the provisions of the national incentive program within the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawai'i. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this standard, which will protect our keiki by holding professionals to the highest standard. It will also support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified School Psychologists, who are experts in the field.

As School Psychologists, we work in public schools to provide psychoeducational support to students in need to facilitate their educational and social-emotional progress. Our roles as School Psychologists directly impact students' futures on a day-to-day basis. This impact we have on students' futures is tremendous; however, in order for this impact to be the best possible, schools within the state need exemplary practitioners. The stringent requirements of the NCSP credential ensure that School Psychologists have received rigorous training and continue to stay current in the field through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This NCSP credential, in turn, guarantees that School Psychologists have received the best possible knowledge-base and tools to allow the greatest positive impact possible on students' futures. To encourage this, it would be beneficial for the state to amend the provisions of the national incentive program with the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawaii.

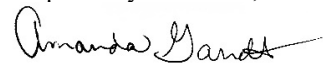
Specifically, the NCSP credential is comparable to the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status, in that they both signify impressive professional credentialing. To become an NCSP, rigorous standards need to be met, as this credential does not come easily. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has developed and maintains a national set of standards for obtaining and keeping this credential, which includes completion of comprehensive coursework/training, supervised practicums, and a supervised 1,200-hour internship required to earn a graduate degree, followed by an additional requirement to receive a passing score on comprehensive School Psychology Praxis examination. To maintain an NCSP status, it must be renewed every three years. Renewal includes providing evidence of 75 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours from approved providers pertaining to topics in School Psychology, of which three credits must be in ethics, and an additional three in equity, diversity, and inclusion. These standards demonstrate a commitment to professional excellence in the field of School Psychology, as they set a high bar for skilled practice. Having an NCSP credential signifies that a School Psychologist advanced above and beyond the requirements of merely obtaining his or her degree to practice in public schools. It demonstrates the individual's desire to not only perform his or her duties, but rather to excel in the field of School Psychology, which in turn will significantly benefit and protect our keiki and their 'ohana. A School Psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of School Psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Not only will this incentive motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this arduous professional standard, but it will additionally have a positive influence on the recruitment efforts of School Psychologists in Hawai'i, as well as in retaining highly qualified professionals in our schools, which is a significant need that will only further benefit our keiki. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage we are currently experiencing. With additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include School Psychologists.

In Hawai'i, incentive is given to public school teachers who have achieved National Board Certification under the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Through the passing of this bill, Hawai'i will also be able to recognize School Psychologists who hold national designations through this incentive program.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Garrett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Amanda Garrett, Psy.D.,
Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)
Treasurer of the Hawaii Association of School Psychologists (HASP)

Testimony Support Regarding HB1649
National Certification Incentive Program
January 29, 2024

Aloha,

I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), currently working within the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE). I am writing in support of Hawai'i State Legislative Bill HB54 to amend the provisions of the national incentive program within the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawai'i. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this standard, which will protect our keiki by holding professionals to the highest standard. It will also support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified School Psychologists, who are experts in the field.

As School Psychologists, we work in public schools to provide psychoeducational support to students in need to facilitate their educational and social-emotional progress. Our roles as School Psychologists directly impact students' futures on a day-to-day basis. This impact we have on students' futures is tremendous; however, in order for this impact to be the best possible, schools within the state need exemplary practitioners. The stringent requirements of the NCSP credential ensure that School Psychologists have received rigorous training and continue to stay current in the field through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This NCSP credential, in turn, guarantees that School Psychologists have received the best possible knowledge-base and tools to allow the greatest positive impact possible on students' futures. To encourage this, it would be beneficial for the state to amend the provisions of the national incentive program with the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawaii.

Specifically, the NCSP credential is comparable to the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status, in that they both signify impressive professional credentialing. To become an NCSP, rigorous standards need to be met, as this credential does not come easily. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has developed and maintains a national set of standards for obtaining and keeping this credential, which includes completion of comprehensive coursework/training, supervised practicums, and a supervised 1,200-hour internship required to earn a graduate degree, followed by an additional requirement to receive a passing score on comprehensive School Psychology Praxis examination. To maintain an NCSP status, it must be renewed every three years. Renewal includes providing evidence of 75 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours from approved providers pertaining to topics in School Psychology, of which three credits must be in ethics, and an additional three in equity, diversity, and inclusion. These standards demonstrate a commitment to professional excellence in the field of School Psychology, as they set a high bar for skilled practice. Having an NCSP credential signifies that a School Psychologist advanced above and beyond the requirements of merely obtaining his or her degree to practice in public schools. It demonstrates the individual's desire to not only perform his or her duties, but rather to excel in the field of School Psychology, which in turn will significantly benefit and protect our keiki and their 'ohana. A School Psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of School Psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Not only will this incentive motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this arduous professional standard, but it will additionally have a positive influence on the recruitment efforts of School Psychologists in Hawai'i, as well as in retaining highly qualified professionals in our schools, which is a significant need that will only further benefit our keiki. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage we are currently experiencing. With additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include School Psychologists.

In Hawai'i, incentive is given to public school teachers who have achieved National Board Certification under the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Through the passing of this bill, Hawai'i will also be able to recognize School Psychologists who hold national designations through this incentive program.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Traci Effinger

Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

Legislative Committee Member of the Hawaii Association of School Psychologists (HASP)

HB-1649

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:50:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Keri Anacker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Keri and I am writing in support of HB1649. Obtaining and maintaining a National Certification demonstrates continued professional excellence. In order for a School Psychologist to renew their NCSP status, documentation of 75 Professional Development hours must be obtained every 3 years. Qualifying hours are completed in a variety of topics pertaining to the field of School Psychology, including training in ethics/legal regulation, and from sources such as NASP or American Psychological Association (APA) approved providers. This makes sure that the School Psychologist remains current and informed on best practices. There is a similar standard for teachers who achieve the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status. In our state, we **do** recognize exemplary **teachers** who have achieved national board certification. Through the passing of this bill, we will **also be able to recognize School Psychologists** who hold a national certification. Additionally, the passing of this bill will have a positive influence on the recruitment and retention of School Psychologists. Speaking from personal experience, many of my friends/colleagues who used to work here, have left the state to seek employment on the mainland where they **are** incentivized to obtain a National Certification. It is imperative that we follow suit, here.

I am also speaking as the Student & Early Career Committee Chair for the Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists and I am always fielding emails from prospective new hires who have a strong desire to work for the HIDOE. However, in answering their many questions, it always pains me to respond that our state does not offer any bonus for holding a National Cert. This fact disappoints many, and is a contributing factor in why we have a hard time recruiting School Psychologists to our state. We can, and should, do better and fight for **equitable** incentives for **all** DOE employees.

Thank you for reading and for your consideration,

Keri Anacker, (Proudly, NCSP)

Testimony Support Regarding HB1649
National Certification Incentive Program

January 29, 2024

I am writing in support of Hawai'i State Legislative Bill HB54 to amend the provisions of the national incentive program within the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawai'i. Now more than ever, mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools. This proposed amendment will motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this standard, which will protect our keiki by holding professionals to the highest standard. It will also support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified School Psychologists, who are experts in the field.

As School Psychologists, we work in public schools to provide psychoeducational support to students in need to facilitate their educational and social-emotional progress. Our roles as School Psychologists directly impact students' futures on a day-to-day basis. This impact we have on students' futures is tremendous; however, in order for this impact to be the best possible, schools within the state need exemplary practitioners. The stringent requirements of the NCSP credential ensure that School Psychologists have received rigorous training and continue to stay current in the field through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This NCSP credential, in turn, guarantees that School Psychologists have received the best possible knowledge-base and tools to allow the greatest positive impact possible on students' futures. To encourage this, it would be beneficial for the state to amend the provisions of the national incentive program with the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawaii.

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providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Not only will this incentive motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this arduous professional standard, but it will additionally have a positive influence on the recruitment efforts of School Psychologists in Hawai'i, as well as in retaining highly qualified professionals in our schools, which is a significant need that will only further benefit our keiki. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage we are currently experiencing. With additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include School Psychologists.

In Hawai'i, incentive is given to public school teachers who have achieved National Board Certification under the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Through the passing of this bill, Hawai'i will also be able to recognize School Psychologists who hold national designations through this incentive program.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Dawson, School Psychologist

LATE

HB-1649

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:53:25 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Alexis E. Jamison | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state without a license for its school psychologists. Additionally, one can become a school psychologist in Hawaii without having been trained in school psychology. Thus, individuals who have and maintain their Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential should be provided with a bonus to acknowledge their efforts to maintain the highest standards in the field. I believe that this bonus will also encourage others who do not currently have their NCSP to pursue it, which will only help improve the school psychological services provided to our state's keiki via the knowledge and skills required to maintain the credential.