



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

PERSON TESTIFYING: Felicia Villalobos, Executive Director, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

DATE: February 23, 2024

TIME: 10:30 am

LOCATION: Conference Room 211 and Video Conference

TITLE OF BILL: SB2257 SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION; HTSB; Career and Technical Education; Education Requirements; Qualified Individuals

PURPOSE OF BILL: Authorizes the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to consider qualified individuals with at least an associate's degree or high school diploma with comparable education and coursework, industry experience, and content expertise to teach career and technical education courses. (SD2)

POSITION: Supports

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee;

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB2257 SD2, relating education.

We need to support our Career and Technical Education (CTE) pipeline of educators along with our students who require CTE credits to complete their studies. Many students decide not to attend college, and instead choose a viable career in CTE, sometimes referred to as the "trades" that do not require a degree to enter into a career and make a very good living. This bill will help support the highly qualified educators they need. Part of understanding the needs of our students, is understanding that they may learn very well from professionals who have worked for many years in their field, despite not having a college degree. They may have attended a technical school, or they may have gone through an apprenticeship to learn their trade. CTE skills are not always learned in college. Although the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board does believe, and will continue to require, they learn pedagogy of teaching etc., as it is very different to teach someone on the job with one or maybe two apprentices, but having a classroom of 30 students is very different. However, to support our CTE educators and those who want to become CTE educators, to help our students in their endeavors, we support this bill.

CTE programs allow students the opportunity to explore and learn through practical application of academic and technical skills. Many of the job openings today are for positions that do not require a college degree, but do require the skill for their specific field. By improving the CTE pipeline, we can expand educational and career options for our students while supporting our local economy. We want to support better support toward graduation for students who are in CTE programs, and this means we need qualified CTE educators.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board asks your committee to support 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: 10:30 AM
Location: CR 211 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2257, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to consider qualified individuals with at least an associate's degree or high school diploma with comparable education and coursework, industry experience, and content expertise to teach career and technical education courses. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2257 SD2, but defers to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board as to the implementation of this measure.

The proposed amendment would authorize the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to exercise more flexibility when considering industry professionals to become licensed teachers in career and technical education courses.

This aligns with the recently adopted Hawaii State Board of Education's Strategic Plan desired outcome of filling all teacher positions with qualified hires.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2257 SD2.



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 23, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

By

Stephen Schatz, Executive Director
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB2257 SD2 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2257 SD2 related to amending Section 302A-803, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports SB2257 SD2, which amends Section 302A-803, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to include “or high school diploma with comparable education” related to career and technical education (CTE) teacher qualifications and licensing. This amendment would allow the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), as the agency that determines teacher qualification standards, to consider alternate qualifications for teachers. For example, an Executive Chef with more than 20 years of experience in the culinary industry who has operated and opened numerous fine-dining restaurants but does not have an associate's degree might be permitted to teach high school CTE courses in Culinary if this amendment is passed. This change to the statute has the potential to remove barriers to teacher licensing for career and technical education professionals who have extensive industry experience but lack the minimum associate's degree currently required in statute.

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

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF EDUCATION

RE: 2257 SB RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Chair La Chica, and other committee members:

My name is Brayley Ah Mow-Wauke . I am a student at Castle High School in District 49 on Oahu. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB# 2257.

This Measure will aim to authorize the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to consider qualified individuals with at least an associate's degree or a high school diploma. They also need to obtain comparable education, coursework, industry experience, and content expertise, to teach career and technical education courses.

I support this bill because it acknowledges that having a fancy degree doesn't always mean you're the best teacher. Sometimes, people who have worked in a specific field for a long time know more about it than someone with a traditional teaching degree. So, hiring these experienced workers can give students really practical knowledge they can use in the real world.

Second, there aren't always enough teachers, especially for specialized subjects. By letting people with associate's degrees and teaching experience apply for these jobs, schools can fill those gaps with qualified people who really know their stuff without having the degree to back it up.

Lastly, it's just fair to give everyone a chance. Not everyone can afford or has the opportunity to get a teaching degree, but that doesn't mean they can't be great teachers. By hiring a diverse group of teachers with different backgrounds and experiences, schools can make sure all students get the best education possible.

To conclude, I believe that this bill will be beneficial and should take action because a degree does not determine one's knowledge and experience. The great teachers teach about life and not just do the job of teaching what is told. I also think the more teachers the better because some places are short on teachers because people don't bother on signing up for the job because they don't have the preferred degree.

One also has to keep in mind that some are unfortunate and can't/ couldn't get that educational degree. As long as they have experience, show interest, and check off the criteria, I am convinced that they could be right for the job. Getting a degree should not determine the worth or knowledge of that person.

Thank you for your time. Mahalo.

Brayley Ah Mow-Wauke , District 49, Oahu