



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

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

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

**DATE:** March 12, 2024

**TIME:** 2:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Conference Room 309 and Video Conference

**TITLE OF BILL:** SB2257 SD3 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. (SD3)

**POSITION:** Support

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee;

**The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB2257 SD3, 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 CTE educators that our students 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 CTE 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 compared to having a classroom of 30 students. However, to support our CTE educators, and those who want to become CTE educators, and 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 they do require the skills for their specific CTE field. By improving the CTE pipeline, we can expand educational and career options for our students while supporting our local economy. We want to provide better support toward graduation for students who are in CTE programs, and this means we need qualified and skilled 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:** 03/12/2024

**Time:** 02:30 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2257, SD3 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. (SD3)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2257 SD3, 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 SD3.

Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee On Education  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

SB 2257, SD3—Relating To Education  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
2:30 P.M.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a nonprofit organization that represents the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state with approximately 6,000 members, in addition to more than 250 diverse contractors ranging from mom-and-pop owned businesses to national companies.

PRP writes in **strong support** of SB 2257, SD3, which 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 (CTE) courses.

SB 2257, SD3 will allow our public schools to attract teachers with valuable industry experience who can provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the current and future workforce. This bill will allow industry professionals from fields that do not require a college degree to teach in the public-school classrooms and move up and across the salary scale as other licensed teachers. This will allow the Department of Education to recruit and retain qualified teachers in its CTE programs.

Teachers with real life experience in the trades will help guide students towards a long-term career path in the construction industry. With proper training and experience, these students could help build the affordable housing and renewable energy projects that our state needs to solve our housing crisis and meet our clean energy goals by 2045. Moreover, graduates will have any opportunity to have a fulfilling job that pays a living wage with benefits so they can afford to live and raise a family in Hawai'i.

Given the above, PRP respectfully requests your favorable decision on SB 2257, SD3. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.



**SB-2257-SD-3**

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:46:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathaniel Kinney	Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HRCC is in support of this measure because there are some career fields that do not require a college degree, and teachers with industry experience (but no college degree) will be able provide students vital knowledge and skills to succeed in the workplace.

Currently teachers without a degree are unable to obtain a standard limited license in CTE...the inclusion of a highschool diploma with industry experience will allow industry professionals from outside fields to move up in salary scale as other licensed teachers.



Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

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

### SB2257 SD3 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2257 SD3 related to amending Section 302A-803, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports SB2257 SD3, 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.