



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

By
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SB 809 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

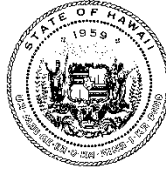
Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB809, appropriating funds to public school positions and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education supports SB 809 which provides funding for public school positions and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. There is a continuous need for public school positions throughout the State of Hawai'i including those hard-to-fill area, and high-demand positions. Further, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board serves as the catalyst for ensuring all teacher candidates have met professional and ethical standards prior to receiving a teaching license.

The delivery of high-quality professional opportunities, support for potential students in high school, and teacher preparation in high-demand career fields is essential to the economy and to prevent disruption in key sectors. In order to arrive at a high-quality program, the college will work closely with all interested parties to ensure academic quality and work force success.

Thank you for allowing our testimony on SB 809.



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

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: Lynn Hammonds, HTSB Executive Director

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2021

TIME: 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room 229, by videoconference

REGARDING: SB 809, RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee on Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HSTB) **strongly supports SB 809**, which appropriates funds for 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 licensure. 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 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 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, your Committee 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 have to 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 allowed new DOE teachers and charter schoolteachers 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.
- 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 meeting 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.

Because Act 116 was passed by both Houses of the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, HTSB hopes that the original intent was to fund Hawaii's only teacher licensure office in the general fund. Unfortunately, because this funding was by Act 116, not the regular budget bill, funding was not included in the current budget bill.

If HTSB is not funded, the license fee assessment on individual teachers, and potentially the DOE, will have to be reinstated and professional development curtailed. HTSB humbly asks you to support inclusion of its funding for the next biennium.

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



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 809 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 809**, 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.

SB-809

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 12:25:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I only oppose this bill due to lack of information. It is unusual for me to oppose this type of bill. However, during this past year and following ALL briefs, meetings and other forums that include the DOE, I am leery of any money being spent that do not clearly identify, who, what, where and why.

I support this committee to the fullest extent reasonable. Disclosure would help.

It is unclear, in the wording of this Bill, exacting where these funds will be provided. Due to the generalization by type of position and not including placement of position